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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you intend to sign the petition to put Article 12 on the ballot this November?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

A prototype flying car completes its first flight but it still needs a runway.

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NATION

A former student of a Calif. university opens fire at the school, killing seven.

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LIFE & STYLE

She's the gray panther, a woman who maintains a full head of gray.

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'No need to renegotiate military lease'

- Tinian mayor, Fitial differ on letter to Panetta
- Over 150 US Marines will train in May

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz told Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that there is no need to renegotiate the existing 100-year Tinian land lease with the U.S. Department of Defense in light of the progress made by the island in military relations, as well as the upcoming training of over 150 U.S. Marines from Japan, among other things.

Two-thirds of Tinian land is leased by the U.S. military.

Dela Cruz said they do not want to "disturb" the current relationship with Defense and it should only be "enhanced."

"In other words, Tinian's future relationship with the Department of Defense, and especially with our friends at Joint Region Command, looks very bright. We do not wish to disturb it. We only want to enhance it," Dela Cruz told Fitial on Monday, a few days after learning of the governor's Feb. 27 letter

See NO NEED on Page 4

CPA chief fires Rota manager

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The long-time manager of the Rota International Airport and seaport was fired yesterday from his position without cause.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that he sent a letter yesterday to Thomas Manglona to inform him of the termination of his employment contract effective after 30 days, or by May 9.

Manglona is the brother of

See CPA on Page 4

35 power, water thefts in 3 months

- 26 case files turned over to AGO
- 6 being processed administratively

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation uncovered 35 power and water theft incidents in just the first three months of the year—a number that CUC deputy executive director Alan Fletcher considers alarming.

He said yesterday that the 35 theft of services cases were investigated from January to March 2012 and that 26 of those cases were sent to the Attorney General's Office for evaluation and possible prosecution. The determination to prosecute depends on the OAG and is based on the evidence collected, he added.

He said six other cases are now being processed administratively and these typically entail payment of back charges.

He explained that in some investigations, no action is taken or required. When called to conduct an investigation, CUC's compliance officer must determine a series of facts through direct observations. Not all cases, he said, rise to a theft of services "threshold" due to mitigating circumstances.

"As far as an increase in theft of services, yes, we feel these activities are on the upswing. Whether due to the economy, high utility

See CUC on Page 4

'CNMI and Cook Islands can learn from each other'

»Cook Islands has NZ$14M as 'gift' from China it has yet to spend

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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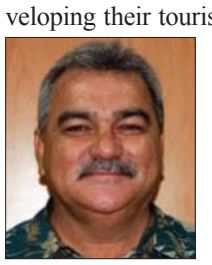
REPORTER

The CNMI and the Cook Islands in the South Pacific are thousands of miles apart but they have a lot in common as well as differences that they each can learn from such as further developing their tourism industry and building new ones, to maintaining and expanding their political relationships with much bigger nations.



Bishop

The Cook Islands is a self-governing island nation in free association with New Zealand, which provides national defense to the islands.

Teina Bishop, the Cook Is-

See CNMI on Page 4

NEW PLAYGROUND CLARISSA V. DAVID

Fr. Ryan Jimenez, apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, leads the invocation while IT&E marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala holds the microphone during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Carolinian Affairs Office Utt Playground in Garapan yesterday. The playground is IT&E's latest donation to the island community. The $30,000 project features slides, a climbing wall, and monkey bars in jungle hues. ***See story on Page 2***

Vehicle sales down 11 percent in March. PAGE 3
Coast Guard searches for crew of missing airplane. Page 4

Local

IT&E unveils newly donated playground in Garapan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

IT&E, a leading telecommunications company in the CNMI, unveiled Tuesday its latest donation to the island community: the Carolinian Affairs Office Utt Playground in Garapan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

IT&E chief executive officer Ricky Delgado, Jr. leads government officials during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the telecommunications company's latest donation, the Carolinian Affairs Office Utt Playground, yesterday afternoon. Joining Delgado are, from left, Carolinian Affairs Office executive assistant Angie Mangarero, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Rep. Edmund Villagomez, and IT&E chief operating officer Joe Camacho.

Chief executive officer Ricky Delgado Jr. led other company executives in yesterday's ribbon cutting ceremony.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other government officials, IT&E employees, and other guests were in attendance at the event.

In his remarks, Delgado said that the playground will serve as a place where families and other community members can congregate and enjoy spending time together. He said IT&E employees themselves contributed their time to ensure the completion of the playground project.

"This is our way of giving back to the community. …I hope that your kids and grandkids can all come here and enjoy a nice day by the beach," added Delgado.

Fitial said he likes playgrounds and joked about how he himself enjoyed playing at the Garapan playground.

"This is a very ideal playground because it's a place where everyone would want to visit," said Fitial. "I want to thank IT&E on behalf of our people in the community. We appreciate your donation."

The $30,000 playground project features slides, a climbing wall, and monkey bars in jungle hues.

The Garapan playground is the second playground equipment donated by IT&E on Saipan and the third in the Marianas. Last October, IT&E donated the playground at Pakpak Beach Park in San Antonio. Two months later, it donated another at the Justice Children's Park in Umatac, Guam.

IT&E's next goal is to replace the playground equipment at Paupau Beach, according to marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala.

"There's one there now that's in a state of disrepair," said Ruszala, adding that IT&E is also thinking of replacing the lighting fixtures of at least 10 basketball courts on island.

IT&E acknowledged several individuals and groups that made the Garapan playground possible, including ITS, Owen Corp., Coastal Resources Management, Faustino Camacho, Ray Tenorio, and House Speaker Eli Cabrera's office.

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CADA report: Vehicle sales down 11 percent in March

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Monthly automotive sales fell for the first time this year in March by 11 percent, but year-to-date sales are still 15 percent higher than the same period last year.

The Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association's latest data released yesterday said that March sales totaled 42 new cars, vans, trucks and sports utility vehicles, an 11-percent increase from the 47 units they sold during the same month last year.

Douglas Brennan, CADA secretary, said they expect overall sales to be higher this year than last year, notwithstanding any major disaster.

The year was off to a good start with a 43-percent sales increase in January, but Brennan said that that was because of "pent up" demand following the impact on production of the March 2011 tsunami in Japan. February sales also rose by 14 percent, before dipping by 11 percent in March.

Brennan said the actual number of units sold in March, which was 42, was within the expected monthly range of 40 to 45 this year. CADA sales totaled 454 new units in 2011, or an average of 37 to 38 a month.

Microl Corp., the authorized dealer of Toyota and Chevrolet, sold 20 new vehicles in March. This brings its year-to-date sales to 71, or 34 percent higher than last year's.

Triple "J" Motors sold 12 new vehicles, a 140-percent increase from the five it sold in March last year. Triple "J" Motors, the authorized dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki, and Mazda, posted a year-to-date sales of 43 or a 39-percent increase from the same period last year.

Joeten Motors sold 10 new units, a 55-percent drop from the same month last year. This brings to 36 its year-to-date sales, a 23-percent drop from the same period in 2011. Joeten Motors is the authorized distributor of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia.

More SUVs than cars sold

SUVs were the vehicle of choice in March, topping the sales chart with 19 new units sold, followed by cars with 14, trucks with six, and vans with three.

Hyundai Tucson was the most saleable SUV in March with six units sold, followed by Ford Escape with four, and Toyota RAV4, three. Other SUVs sold were two Nissan Rogue, and one each of Kia Sportage, Mazda CX7, Mazda CX5, and Toyota Highlander.

Among sedans, Toyota Yaris sold the most in March with four units. Other sold were two each of Hyundai Elantra, Toyota Corolla and Toyota Prius, along with one each of Honda Civic, Mazda2, Mazda3 and Toyota Camry.

Of the six trucks sold in March, all were Toyota Tacoma.

The three vans sold last month were one each of Honda Odyssey, Kia Sedona, and Toyota Sienna.

CADA also sold 21 used or secondhand vehicles in March, bringing to 64 the total sold since January.

'Scholarship office does not favor NMA applicants'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

NMI Scholarship Office administrator Jackie Che has denied claims by the Tinian Legislative Delegation that proposed changes to the program's regulations will only favor students of the Northern Marianas Academy.

"The Scholarship Office does not favor students from NMA so any accusation that only NMA high school students have benefited from a CNMI Scholarship award is, in and of itself, unfounded," said Che yesterday.

Tinian delegation chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider earlier expressed the delegation's opposition to the proposed emergency scholarship rules, saying the proposal to broaden the eligibility of the Early Admission Program is "very impractical" because of the current state of the CNMI economy and the Scholarship Office's inability to release awards on time. Hofschneider also opposed the Early Admissions Program as it excludes high school students from Tinian and Rota.

In his letter to Che, Hofschneider said that only NMA students stand to benefit the most from the Early Admissions Program.

Che pointed out, however, that any prospective Early Admissions Program applicant, regardless of his or her affiliation to any high school, are automatically denied by the office if they fail to show proof of a high school degree or GED

She said this is clearly stipulated in the current regulations under "Eligibility for EAP," that an applicant must have graduated from high school, Advanced Development Institute, General Education Development, or higher in order to be considered eligible for a CNMI Scholarship.

"We have had high school students from across the island who apply for a CNMI Scholarship over the years, but they were denied because they failed to meet this basic requirement," she said.

According to Che, the stipulations under this clause are still being assessed. She said there are certain mechanisms such as transfer credits and credit agreements with high schools, as well as accessibility issues with Rota and Tinian students that have to be ironed out.

Che said the scholarship advisory board appreciates the comments they have received over the last few weeks and will take each of them into consideration as they finalize the proposed regulations.

The proposed changes include increasing the minimum undergraduate grade point average for satisfactory academic progress from 2.5 to 2.75, as well as limiting scholarship assistance for new undergraduate applicants to those enrolled at NMC or have already obtained an associate's degree and are enrolled at an accredited institution.

The proposed amendments also include enabling scholarship assistance for participants in NMC's Early Admissions Program, and authorizing the board in its discretion to extend the duration of an award.

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Office of
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Official Guidelines

The competition is open to students grades 9 through 12 in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Artwork submitted must meet the following requirements in order to fit in the exhibit space at the U.S. Capitol:

- Artwork must be two dimensional.
- Dimensions cannot exceed 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, inclusive of the frame.
- Weight cannot exceed 15 lbs.
- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. Copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo (not the student's own), painting, graphic, advertisement, or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted. Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).
- Artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned earlier. Students should, therefore, submit work they will not need for other purposes during that time period.

- Accepted media are:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal ink, markers
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Paints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media: use of more than two media, such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc
  - Computer-generated art
  - Photography

Artwork must be submitted no later than
Friday, April 13, 2012

Entries can be hand-delivered or mailed to the congressional offices on Rota and Tinian, which are open Monday to Friday, from 8:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saipan, which is also open on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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Judge OKs bail for 2 GES burglary suspects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo reduced yesterday the $5,000 cash bail for two Division of Sports and Recreation employees who are suspected of carting off more than $6,000 worth of equipment from the Garapan Elementary School.

Suspect John B. Reyes Jr., deputy director of the Division of Sports and Recreation, was allowed to post $1,000 cash bail and $4,000 in unsecured or appearance bond.

His co-defendant, division staff Mario O. Sablan, was allowed to post $625 cash and $4,375 in unsecured or appearance bond.

The third-party custodian for the 34-year-old Reyes is his father, former Department of Public Works secretary Juan S. Reyes Sr.

The third-party custodian for 35-year-old Sablan is his mother, Gregoria Olopai.

Attorney Stephen C. Woodruff, counsel for Reyes, said that his client is not a flight risk, has strong family ties on Saipan, has no criminal history, and is gainfully employed. Woodruff requested a $500 cash bail and an unsecured bond for the $4,500 remainder.

Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, counsel for Sablan, moved the court to release his client to his mother after posting a $500 cash.

In the government's opposition to modify bail, assistant attorney general Shelli Neal said the bail amount of $5,000 cash is less than the value of the items stolen from GES.

Second, Neal said, the nature of this crime is one that requires a significant amount of bail to deter these defendants from committing similar crimes.

Police arrested Reyes and Sablan Friday night after being tagged as responsible for the burglary at several classrooms and storage rooms at GES on March 25, 2012.

Coast Guard searches for crew of missing airplane

APRA HARBOR, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard is searching for three men aboard a Cessna airplane forced to ditch off the coast of Palau after running out of fuel on Sunday.

Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified by authorities in Palau Sunday night that communications were lost with the airplane as it was returning to Palau.

The Cessna pilot reported that the airplane was low on fuel and the crew experienced difficulties with their navigation equipment and were unable to pinpoint their exact location.

The last transmission received from the pilot reported they had run out of fuel and he was attempting a controlled descent.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Guam immediately diverted the Coast Guard cutter *Jarvis,* which has an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter aboard. The cutter was approximately 86 miles away.

A Coast Guard HC-130 from Air Station Barbers Point launched at first light to conduct a search. Palau's Pacific Patrol Boat *H.I. Remeliik*, numerous Palau Ranger vessels, and several good Samaritan vessels joined the search.

More than 6,500 square miles of ocean have been searched for the missing crew, an area larger than the entire state of Connecticut.

Search and rescue crews will continue to search until sunset and resume at first light Wednesday. ***(USCG)***

NO NEED

From Page 1

to U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Thursday.

In that letter, Fitial asked Panetta to initiate "direct discussions" on the future uses of U.S. military land on Tinian and "renegotiation" of the existing lease agreement between the CNMI and Defense because none of the promised developments on the island has materialized for 35 years.

The governor has yet to receive a response from Panetta.

Fitial, in an interview yesterday, said he has yet to see Dela Cruz's letter, but said the lease renegotiation request to Panetta was the "consensus" of the Military Integration Management Committee, in which the Tinian mayor was a member.

"He came late. His representative at the time was Lucy Blanco-Maratita," Fitial told Saipan Tribune, when asked why the Tinian mayor was not notified of such a request beforehand.

Dela Cruz, in his two-page letter to Fitial, said this request for renegotiation of the lease is not what the mayor had in mind when he wrote to the governor on Sept. 27, 2011, requesting help working with U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Paul J. Bushong to provide funding to "properly maintain roadways on Tinian" and to establish a liability protocol "for accidents that might occur on military leased lands."

"I would like to make it very clear that Tinian has made great progress in military relations over the last two and half years. We successfully negotiated a programmatic agreement with the Navy for maintaining the National Historic Landmark at North Field, which you approved and forwarded up to the chain of command," Dela Cruz told Fitial.

Last week, representatives of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command met with the Tinian mayor and his staff to discuss an agreement that will provide some $30,000 to maintain specific sites within Tinian's National Historic Landmark boundaries, the mayor said. He hopes to conclude this agreement this month.

Dela Cruz said he also met with representatives of the Marine Air Group 12, which is planning a permanent training facility on Tinian.

He said if the Marine Air Group 12 receives the required permission from the CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer, Melvin Faisao, their advance team will arrive on May 3.

Another 150 U.S. Marines will arrive from Japan shortly after by high-speed motor vessel.

"The heavy equipment they are bringing will not only build their training area, but also provide the people of Tinian with an opportunity to have many of the existing roadways and historic sites on other military leased lands cleared and improved," Dela Cruz told Fitial.

He added that this will infuse considerable sum of new cash into the CNMI economy on Tinian and Saipan twice a year for the foreseeable future.

Tinian, the mayor said, is also expecting that the proposed Air Force Divert Base will be built on Tinian, as the governor and all mayors have recommended.

The Divert Base will help complete the facilities necessary to make Tinian West Field Airport a "true international airport," and therefore increase revenues for the CNMI.

Tinian is also expecting that at least a major portion of the Third Marine Division will be moved from Okinawa, Japan and that they will want to train on Tinian, as Congress continues to insist they will, "when a proper long-term plan is accepted."

CPA

From Page 1

Senate President Paul A. Manglona, who is currently engaged in a word war with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Deleon Guerrero described his letter to Manglona as self-explanatory and declined to further comment on the issue.

He explained, however, that a manager's contract includes a provision that allows termination with or without cause. The 30-day notice, he said, is to allow for the smooth transition of responsibilities.

As of yesterday, no replacement has been named for Thomas Manglona yet.

Thomas Manglona himself had nothing but praise yesterday for CPA, saying he respects the management's decision.

Manglona began serving as airport and seaport manager in 2006. He has about 20 personnel under his watch for both airport and seaport.

Manglona believes that substantial improvements were accomplished at both the Rota airport and seaport during his tenure.

"I really thanked CPA for giving me the opportunity to serve our people for less than seven years. I am grateful that for those years, we were able to bring progress and improvements in both our airport and seaports here," Manglona said.

When asked if his termination is related to his brother's political differences with the governor, Manglona said he has no idea and he has full respect for the governor.

Manglona's contract was just renewed last month, along with the employment contracts of other managers on Saipan and Tinian.

CUC

From Page 1

bills, or people just cutting corners, theft of services is a violation of CMNI law and CUC regulations," Fletcher said.

Since CUC is a non-profit utility that services only the CNMI, theft cases cost paying customers more, he added. "Basically people are stealing from their neighbors."

According to Fletcher, CUC continues its aggressive efforts in tracking down these illegal power and water connections to avert continuous losses that are estimated to reach thousands of dollars.

The theft of power—oftentimes by jumping electrical meters—and water—typically through illegal taps that are unmetered—can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, according to CUC estimates.

Just for the February and March period, the agency said it discovered 12 major instances of theft that were turned over to the OAG for prosecution.

Besides tracking down power and water thefts, the agency is also working with federal investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in going after copper wire thieves, which so far has cost ratepayers close to $20,000 as well as sporadic service outages on Saipan.

"All instances of theft are direct violations of laws and may be subject to criminal prosecution. In addition, theft of copper wire from federally funded water, wastewater, and power facilities are not only dangerous but perpetrators may face federal charges as well," said CUC in a separate statement yesterday.

CUC, in conjunction with other government agencies, said that it is also blocking thieves' access to any markets for selling the contraband. "Currently, officials are working with recyclers, conducting unannounced inspections, and reviewing documentation of copper sales to the recycle industry. Recyclers must retain extensive documentation of scrap sales or face stiff fines and/or business sanctions," CUC added.

CUC asked the public to help the agency in controlling costs by reporting copper wire or theft of services. It advised the public to contact CUC directly or call Crime Stoppers for any suspected theft incidents.

CNMI

From Page 1

lands' minister of tourism, education, marine resources, national human resources and pearl authority, has been on Saipan for three days to see firsthand the CNMI's tourism, gauge areas it can learn from, and where the CNMI can improve on.

The Cook Islands' major tourism markets are New Zealand and Australia, along with Europe, especially Germany. It welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually.

Bishop said both the CNMI and the Cook Islands have limited air seats that hamper tourism.

But unlike the CNMI, the Cook Islands has other industries besides tourism such as offshore banking and fruit exports and others that it is developing such as fishing.

It also has other industries it wants to revitalize such as black pearl farming, which it wants to bring back to a NZ$20-million annual industry from the current NZ$1-million annual business.

Bishop, who is leaving Saipan today for Guam and then to New Zealand, said that Cook Islands cannot depend on tourism alone.

The Cook Islands also receives direct financial aids from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Korea, India and China; the latter is one of its biggest donors.

"We have sitting with us now about NZ$14 million that China has given us as a gift. We don't know how to spend [it]. They give us about NZ$2 million every year. To develop…anything we want," Bishop said in an interview yesterday morning.

There are only two conditions on how to spend the roughly US$11.5 million from China. One, Cook Islands has to get the services or workers from China to do the development work, and two, the islands should buy equipment from China.

"It's sitting; all we need is to request China," he said.

China also built the Cook Islands a courthouse and a police station as gifts. China also gave a low-interest loan to build a sports stadium.

"Personally I feel that we should establish an office in Beijing so we can strengthen our relationship," he said, when asked whether they'd pursue full-fledge membership in the United Nations at this time.

Bishop said once they have fully developed the fishing industry and fully revitalized the black pearl farming industry, they will embark further on airline and tourism, including talks with China Southern, which started flying to New Zealand in April last year.

The Cook Islands' budget last year was NZ$174 million, which is roughly US$143 million for a population of close to 18,000, based on preliminary 2011 Census data.

However, there is a much larger population of Cook Islanders in New Zealand and in the 2006 census, 58,008 self-identified as being of ethnic Cook Island Māori descent.

When an international airport was built in 1974, Cook Islanders began migrating to New Zealand and other areas.

Bishop said of their NZ$174 million budget, some NZ$82 million or some US$67.4 million comes from their own revenues derived from taxes and fees; the rest, from foreign aids.

The CNMI's fiscal year 2011 and 2012 budgets are $102 million each for a population of over 50,000.

Bishop said that Cook Islands also provides free education, free health service, and old-age pension to people at least 60 years old, which is currently some NZ$400 a month and they're now looking at raising the monthly pension to NZ$800 for those at least 70 years old.

He said Saipan has big and beautiful hotels "but you still have white sand beaches just like us." He reiterated that airlines are a challenge, but he said "hats off" to Tan Holdings' plan to launch its own airline in July to target the main Asian markets.

"And of course, again, because you're close to Asian markets… We can't have [that], we cannot shift the [Cook] islands. You're very lucky you're very close to the markets," he added.

He believes the only thing that the Cook Islands have that the CNMI doesn't have is cultural dance that's very unique to any other islands. Theirs has "drumming" that requires special skills that are more articulate than the dance itself.

He said the CNMI is also able to preserve the relics of its historic past.

"And what I find after visiting those sites—they're so peaceful. That's one thing we have in common. I wouldn't change anything, I wouldn't suggest anything, I think you've got it, all we need—the same as you—is people to come and enjoy," he said.

Bishop said when he had dinner with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, it felt as if he were back in his home because of the atmosphere and servings of breadfruit, banana, and barbecued fish.

UMDA, ex-officer agree to settlement talks

Hiroyuki Saito, a former chief financial officer of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc., has agreed to a conference to settle their dispute.

Saito and UMDA, through their respective lawyers, Mark A. Scoggins and Robert T. Torres, requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to appoint U.S. Magistrate Judge of the District of Guam Joaquin V.E. Manibusan Jr. to be the mediator/settlement judge.

In the requests filed on Monday, Scoggins and Torres asked the court to put on hold the arbitration order issued by designated Judge Wallace Tashima.

"The parties agree that they wish to pursue resolution through non-binding mediation and with a settlement conference," Scoggins and Torres said.

The lawyers asked that the settlement conference be scheduled on April 25, 2012, at 10:30am.

Saito and UMDA expect the mediation process to last the entire day.

Attending the conference are the two lawyers, Saito, UMDA chief executive officer David Wickline, UMDA chief financial officer Rufo Mafnas and/or UMDA board chair Jose R. Lifoifoi.

Saito sued UMDA to compel the company to arbitrate their disputes. He claimed that UMDA's total outstanding liability to him under the terms of a renewed contract is at least $975,000.

In February 2011, the federal court granted UMDA's motion to dismiss Saito's lawsuit.

The court agreed with UMDA counsel Torres that Saito does not adequately allege a breach of contract in this lawsuit because he does not adequately allege the existence of any contract to be breached. The judge, however, gave Saito time to amend his complaint.

In May 2011, Saito filed an amended complaint, alleging that UMDA terminated his employment effective immediately and without cause on Dec. 7, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of 1983 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 will have a general class meeting this Friday, April 27, at 6:30pm, at the Garapan Beach road pavilion next to the 13 Fishermen's Monument. For more information, contact Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. ***(PR)***

Managaha gets green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Managaha's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

The division analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha this week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions about this matter. (DEQ)

MIFICPA to induct new officers

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, would like to announce that membership and renewal fees for existing members are free for this year. All Filipino accountants are encouraged to join MIFICPA.

The induction of officers and board of directors is on April 28, 2012 at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club at 6pm. Tickets are available at $20 each. Attire is formal.

For more information and membership form, contact Noli Santos, (president) at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com) or the following officers: Aileen Indino (287-0305, aileenrindino@yahoo.com); Butch Ordas (789-9276, butchordas@yahoo.com); Robert Reyes (789-6498, robert2reyes@gmail.com). You may also download membership forms from our Facebook account. ***(MIFICPA)***

Annuncio – Arongorong
ANNOUNCEMENT

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY - 2013 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

Goal 5. Maintain a comprehensive system of personnel development to ensure adequate qualified rehabilitation personnel.

Goal 6. Continue to update OVR Policies and Procedures.

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Isidro K. Seman
SRC Chairperson

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), will be conducting statewide public forums on **FY 2013 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services.** YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job? More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. **Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together to prepare, secure, and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?**

Community Forum on VR State Plan FY 2013

TINIAN	SAIPAN	ROTA
April 09, 2012	April 10, 2012	April 11, 2012
Tinian Junior-Senior High School Cafeteria	Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi- Purpose Center	Aging Office, Sinapalo
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30pm	Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Elvira Seman at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be accessed at the OVR website or obtain copies at the OVR Main Office at Navy Hill Bldg. N-2.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
VOICE: 322-6537/8 TTY: 322-6449 FAX: 322-6536
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950
Email: nmidir@ovrgov.net
Website: www.ovrgov.net

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA Grant #H126A100078 of the United States Department of Education Office of the Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

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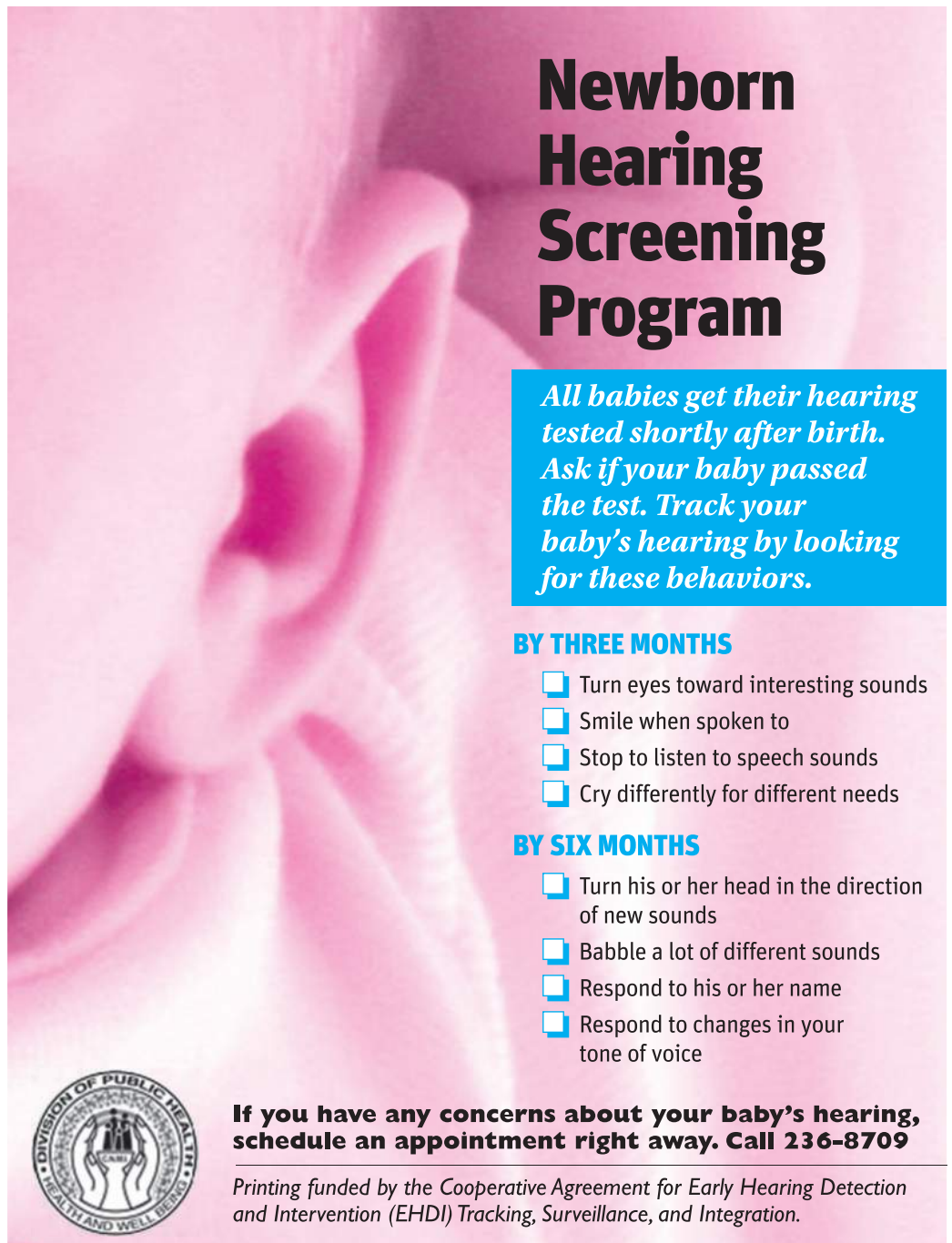
Monday to Sunday - 5:00pm to 2:00am

Located on the corner of Corp. Derence Jack Road and Coral Tree Avenue, across Fiesta Resort & Spa


Newborn Hearing Screening Program
All babies get their hearing tested shortly after birth. Ask if your baby passed the test. Track your baby's hearing by looking for these behaviors.
BY THREE MONTHS
Turn eyes toward interesting sounds
Smile when spoken to
Stop to listen to speech sounds
Cry differently for different needs
BY SIX MONTHS
Turn his or her head in the direction of new sounds
Babble a lot of different sounds
Respond to his or her name
Respond to changes in your tone of voice
If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.

BARELY A FEW MONTHS BEFORE ACCJC VISIT:

NMC still has no chief financial administrative officer

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just a few months away from a scheduled accreditation team visit in October, the Northern Marianas College has yet to find someone for a position that the Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges wants filled—the chief financial administrative officer.

The commission had placed NMC's accreditation on continued probation status, citing five concerns that still need to be resolved. Majority of these unresolved concerns are related to financial planning and stability in the college and the team had recommended that NMC integrate its financial planning with institutional planning and recruit a permanent CFAO to ensure integral financial control at the college.

NMC has until October 2012 to address all these concerns or its accreditation will be revoked.

In a board meeting in February, the Board of Regents voted to reinstate the CFAO position, citing its critical role in meeting accreditation requirements. Just a month prior to that meeting, CFAO position was dissolved by the management, creating in its place a dean of Administration that will handle the CFAO's responsibilities.

The board instructed the college to put back the CFAO post and hire a qualified candidate as soon as possible. Since the February meeting, no announcement has been made yet relating to the CFAO post and NMC president Sharon Y. Hart plans to discuss this with the board's budget and finance committee.

"The college has not as yet filled the vacancy left by the CFO. Dr. Hart will be discussing this position in more detail with the board's budget and finance committee, especially in light of the college's very limited financial resources, and the fact that our recently-named dean of Administration, David Attao, and other in-house staff have assumed the responsibilities of this position," the college said in a statement to *Saipan Tribune.*

Hart stressed that the limited budget allocated by the Legislature for the college in fiscal year 2012 compelled NMC to leave some positions vacant.

"We are currently reviewing all vacant positions and identifying ones that align with the priorities by the NMC Board of Regents," said Hart.

For fiscal year 2013, NMC submitted a budget request of $8 million. NMC said the amount requested represents the bare bones minimum to ensure that the college maintains the high quality of instruction and student services it provides its students.

The same statement issued yesterday included that of Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama regarding the budget submission. "Equally important, it will allow the college to meet accreditation standards and requirements," he said.

According to Hart, while enrollment continues to increase, the college's share as a percentage of the CNMI budget has continued to shrink dramatically.

Sexual violence in the workplace: It happens

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence program coordinator Kiki Igitol Benjamin, right, delivers her remarks about sexual violence in the workplace as acting Rotary president Pete Shilling looks on during the Saipan Rotary Club general membership meeting at Hyatt Regency yesterday.

The power imbalance that exists within companies and organizations creates an environment that gives rise to sexual violence cases, according to executive director Maisie B. Tenorio of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Tenorio and coalition program coordinator Kiki Igitol Benjamin served as guest speakers at the Saipan Rotary Club general membership meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

"We really encourage you all to look at the companies that you work with and your business partners to address the issue of sexual violence in your respective work areas," Tenorio told Rotarians, noting that many sexual violence offenders use their company's time and resources to violate others.

Benjamin said that sexual violence in all forms occurs in the workplace and can be perpetrated by a supervisor, a co-worker or a non-employee of the same or opposite sex, resulting in high costs not just for businesses but also for the local economy.

"Employers need to be aware that sexual violence correlates with decreased productivity, higher rates of absenteeism, and lower employee morale," said Benjamin.

Sexual violence, Benjamin said, is among the underreported crimes in the Asia and Pacific Island communities, with shame, fear, and stigma being the reasons why 60 to 80 percent of victims do not report their cases.

Cases of sexual violence often reveal that majority of offenders are related or are known to the victims—a family member, a close friend or a co-worker, she added.

Benjamin underscored the importance of learning the facts about sexual violence in the workplace to help employers recognize the signs of sexual violence and learn to respond appropriately to promote safety and productivity.

She urged both employers and employees to take on their role to prevent sexual violence from happening in the workplace. She also asked businesses to establish sexual harassment policies and hold professional development trainings that promote appropriate workplace behaviors.

Benjamin disclosed that the coalition offers technical assistance in developing sexual harassment policies, conducting in-service trainings, and providing resource materials to aid the human resource departments of local businesses.

She emphasized that individuals and business leaders in the community all have a personal responsibility to end sexual violence.

"Let us confront this crime and continue taking action in our community to stop sexual violence before it starts," said Benjamin. "Together, we can increase awareness of sexual violence and decrease its frequency, promote healthy relationships, punish offenders, help victims, and heal lives."

This year marks the third year for the coalition, with the collaboration of the Family Violence Task Force, to mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The theme, "It's time…to talk about it! Connect. Respect. End Sexual Violence," seeks to encourage community members to bring healthy sexuality and respect into the conversation to prevent sexual violence.

"By talking about 'it' we are making the connection that promoting healthy behavior encourages relationships that are consensual, respectful, and informed. Healthy sexuality is free from coercion and violence," she added.

For more information, call 234-3878.

Man who allegedly threatened to stab mother remanded to custody

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded yesterday to the custody of the U.S. Marshal a probationer who had allegedly threatened to stab his mother.

Lucas Manglona's term of supervised release was revoked on Feb. 23, 2012, after he was found using marijuana and methamphetamine or "ice."

Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola said that he received a call from Manglona's mother on March 19, 2012, during which she told him that Transitional Living Center staff members had stopped by her residence to administer defendant's monthly medication shot but he refused to take the shot and instead chased them away.

Manglona also allegedly threatened to stab her, forcing her to leave the house to contact the police.

That same day, police officers arrested Manglona for disturbing the peace.

In September 2011, Manglona allegedly refused to take his medication as ordered by a psychiatrist, threatened he would kill a nurse, and tested positive for marijuana use.

Manglona's probation had been revoked several times in the past for continued use of illegal drugs and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Manglona is one of three persons convicted of passing fake money to some stores on Saipan. In September 2009, the federal court sentenced him to a year and one day in prison and placed him on probation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION FOR BID
IFB NO.: IFB12-OHS-034

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 16, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PREPAREDNESS SUPPLIES FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION FOR BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 09, 2012.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB12-DEQ-063

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 24, 2012
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, *LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE,* BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

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/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD EDI-SP funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2012 * TIME: 10:00 AM

AMENDMENT#01 - NMHC IFB 2012-EDI-005

"Repair & Renovation of the Roofing System for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library"

This is to inform all bidders present at the **mandatory pre-bid conference** held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, March 28, 2012,** at the proposed project site located in Susupe, Saipan, that the original bid submission date on **Thursday, April 5, 2012 – 10:00 a.m.** has been extended to Thursday, April 19, 2012 – 10:00 a.m. at the Procurement & Supply Office.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Procurement Officer at 234-6866/9447.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Economic Development Initiative Special Projects Grant (EDI-SP).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-12-014
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
(Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Obyan Overhead Power Line Extension Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-014, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2012** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries with regards to this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **April 16, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

‘Be A Part’ campaign to anchor arts festival’s promotion

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee launched yesterday its “Be A Part” flagship marketing strategy for this year’s premier arts event.

“Be A Part” aims to engage the whole community in a wider effort to celebrate the festival in the Commonwealth.

The “P” in “Be A Part” encompasses the three main goals of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture: promotion, preservation, and perpetuation of the rich art and cultural heritage of the CNMI.

Promotion deals with the showcasing of the ingenuity of the islands’ artists who use different mediums and forms in expressing themselves, with their works of art being displayed at the Flame Tree Arts Festival and the council’s major exhibits annually.

Preservation involves continuous undertakings to protect and safeguard works of art that help create the CNMI’s unique and distinctive cultural identity as a community. It embraces the collaborative efforts of the council with other government agencies and local organizations that share similar insights.

Both promotion and preservation bring about the last “P,” perpetuation, which allows for future generations to gain knowledge about and have appreciation for their roots through the arts.

Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said the three “P’s” capture and summarize everything about the Flame Tree Arts Festival and will appear in various promotional materials about the event such as souvenir programs, shirts, banners, and ads.

“The ‘Be A Part’ flagship marketing strategy hopes to send across the important message that the festival committee seeks out the support of each and everyone in the community to make the promotion, preservation and perpetuation of local arts and culture a resounding success this year and beyond,” he said.

“It is critical that we establish among all of us in the community a multitude of advocates who can collectively work in stimulating and furthering our artistic consciousness. Together, let us celebrate arts and ‘Be A Part’ of the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival,” added Hocog.

The 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held on April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe. For more information about the “Be A Part” strategy or the event itself, visit the Council’s office next to the post office on Capital Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

Request for new trial denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied the request of the owner of a Garapan clothing store that burned down in 2010 for a new trial.

In a decision Monday, Manglona said that Zhen Rui Bother Corp. has failed to show that the great weight of the evidence was against the jury’s verdict or that the trial was unfair.

The judge said that based on all the evidence presented at trial, she cannot say that there was no reasonable basis for the jury’s verdict.

“The weight of the evidence was clearly in favor of the verdict for FirstNet,” Manglona said.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp. is the owner of BL Clothing Store that was engulfed in flames on Oct. 30, 2010.

FirstNet Insurance Company, through counsel Richard Pierce, sued Zhen Rui Brother Corp. for allegedly deliberately setting off the blaze so the corporation’s lone owner, Zheng Biao, could claim $414,718.53 in insurance proceeds.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp., through counsels Ramon Quichocho and Michael Dotts, countersued FirstNet for breach of contract for refusing to pay the insurance policy.

In February 2012, a federal jury found that either Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally caused the fire at BL Clothing Store or someone with the permission of the corporation intentionally caused the blaze.

The jury also found that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally overstated the actual cash value of its losses in the fire.

In denying the motion for a new trial, Manglona said there is no indication that the expert’s testimony in the case, although unfavorable, was unfair to Zhen Rui.

On the issue of contact between jurors and third person, Manglona said upon consideration of the totality of these circumstances, Zhen Rui has failed to allege facts that would give rise to a presumption of prejudice and support granting a new trial.

The judge noted that Zhen Rui has not pointed to any federal statute or case law for the proposition that the court’s procedure is improper and creates a defect in the trial.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

BBC’s South Pacific: Castaways

As part of their ongoing monthly environmental film series, First Friday Films will be featuring another episode of *BBC’s South Pacific*, titled *Castaways*, on April 6, 2012, at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor’s Center.

Remote islands that emerge out of the ocean as a consequence of different geological events are initially barren of land-based living creatures, but not for long. This episode looks at how plants, animals, and humans all eventually find their ways to even the smallest and most remote of islands by riding ocean and wind currents or taking advantage of storms. Some crafty organisms even find ways to hitchhike around by attaching themselves to other species or riding along on boats with people. Come see another episode of this beautiful series presented in HD quality Blu-ray!

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups. This particular film is provided by the Bearden Foundation.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 50 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. For more information about First Friday Films, check out our www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com or email fff-saipan@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

Stay tuned for more information regarding our upcoming Environmental Awareness Month Film Festival on April 27 and 28 at American Memorial Park. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Saipan, Tinian and Rota Vendors.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 05, 2012 through June 28, 2012 (Monday to Thursday) or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., June 28, 2012.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

WIC

ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to strengthen our Program Integrity, the CNMI WIC Program would like to inform the General Public to report suspicious activities from WIC vendors and/or participants committing Fraud and Abuse by contacting the Quality Assurance Coordinator, Mr. Ponce Rasa at (670) 664-4068 and (670) 285-4068 or email at poncer@cnmiwic.org and the Vendor Management Coordinator, Mr. Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4066 and (670) 285-4073 or email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org.

Remember all tips or reports are kept confidential and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

USDA is an equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

Guam firm settles religious discrimination suit

»EEOC says Aviation Concepts fired Jehovah's Witness for not raising flags

HAGATNA, Guam—A federal judge has approved the settlement by Aviation Concepts, Inc., an aircraft retailer and service provider in Guam, of a religious discrimination lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency said yesterday. Aviation Concepts will pay $51,000 and furnish extensive relief to settle the EEOC suit.

The federal agency originally filed suit against Aviation Concepts in September 2011, charging that the company fired Armando Perez, an assistant mechanic and practicing Jehovah's Witness, after he informed his supervisor that he did not wish to perform certain acts that conflicted with his religious beliefs (*EEOC v. Aviation Concepts, Inc.,* case no. 11-00028). Specifically, the EEOC alleged that a manager ordered Perez to raise the U.S. and Guam flags at the worksite in June 2010. Although he explained that raising the flags would violate his religious beliefs, the manager ordered Perez to go home and fired him that same day for insubordination.

Religious discrimination violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement through its conciliation process.

Aviation Concepts and the EEOC ultimately entered into a two-and-a-half year consent decree, effectively settling the lawsuit. Aside from the monetary relief for Perez, the company agreed to appoint an equal employment opportunity consultant; revise its policies and procedures to include the reasonable accommodation of sincerely held beliefs; effectively handle requests for religious accommodation and complaints of discrimination or retaliation; and provide annual anti-discrimination training to all employees with additional training for management and human resources officials on how to handle complaints and accommodation requests. Aviation Concepts will also post a notice on the matter at each of its facilities, and the EEOC will monitor compliance with the decree.

"Workers have the right to request an accommodation or exception to work tasks or practices that conflict with their religious beliefs," said Anna Y. Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office. "We are hopeful that the terms Aviation Concepts has agreed to will promote a workplace culture that is inclusive of workers irrespective of religion."

Timothy Riera, local director for the EEOC's Honolulu Local Office, which has jurisdiction over Guam, added, "Employers cannot ignore or summarily dismiss religious accommodation requests by workers. Companies who fire, discipline or otherwise negatively impact workers who exercise this right violate federal law."

According to the company's website, Aviation Concepts provides private jet charter, aircraft sales and acquisition, business aviation consulting and aircraft management services from its 50,000-square-foot hangar facility in Guam.

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the EEOC is available on its web site at www.eeoc.gov. ***(EEOC)***

Floods in Fiji finally recede after leaving 5 dead

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Flood waters are finally receding in Fiji after leaving at least five people dead and forcing thousands more from their homes.

The Pacific island nation had been lashed since Thursday by heavy rains and wind that swamped homes and downed infrastructure. But fears the situation could get worse eased Tuesday after a cyclone missed the islands by several hundred miles.

Government spokeswoman Sharon Smith Johns said about 8,000 people in the west of the main island, Viti Levu, had been forced from their homes into evacuation centers. She said they were slowly returning Tuesday after the rain stopped and flood waters began to recede.

She said officials were working restore vital infrastructure like bridges, electricity and fresh water supplies.

Guam Cancer Care gets $400K from Guam Cancer Trust Fund

GUAM—The University of Guam announced yesterday the awarding of a $400,000 supplemental grant award to Guam Cancer Care, an official 501c3 non-profit organization. Guam Cancer Care's mission is to provide direct support services to Guam cancer patients, in the form of patient navigation and advocacy, as well as financial assistance needed by these individuals to access much-needed cancer treatment. This cash infusion will sustain key direct cancer support programs that will benefit many Guam cancer patients for the remainder of fiscal year.

According to Guam Cancer Care's executive director Terry Cuabo, Guam Cancer Care's Patient Navigation program has assisted over 122 residents afflicted by cancer over the past six months, by bringing in over $702,448 in external resources, to include but not limited to; low to no-cost chemotherapy drugs or direct financial assistance for eligible Guam cancer patients from stateside organizations such as Cancercare.org, Patient Advocacy Foundation, Prescription Solutions, Genentech Access Solutions, Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy, and Celgene Specialty Pharmacy, to name a few. In addition to providing patient navigation to Guam cancer patients, the awarding of this supplemental funding has enabled Guam Cancer Care to issue out financial assistance awards to 41 eligible cancer patients totaling $125,035.69. These financial assistance awards will help cover the costs of cancer treatment for patients.

The Guam Cancer Trust Fund, under the purview of the University of Guam, is established by Public Law 30-80 which redirects 15 percent of all tobacco taxes generated within the territory be deposited into its account. The funds are used exclusively to provide direct support services for Guam cancer patients.

UOG president Robert A. Underwood commends Guam Cancer Care for being a proactive partner in serving those individuals coping with cancer. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with Guam Cancer Care. Together we can provide much needed assistance to people coping with this disease!"

Cuabo states: "We are extremely grateful to the University of Guam for awarding this supplemental budget to our organization as it will allow us to sustain some of our key programs throughout the remainder of the fiscal year. We look forward to working collaboratively with the university in continuing to provide these critical support services to many Guam cancer patients afflicted by cancer. I encourage our island community to assist in spreading the word about what Guam Cancer Care does. At the same time, we encourage all Guam residents afflicted by this deadly disease to reach out and contact us so that we can assist them through this delicate and sensitive process, which ties in to the Guam Cancer Care core mission, which is to help save lives, one person at a time! "

For further information regarding Guam Cancer Care's programs, contact their office at 969-2223 or visit them at their website at www.guamcancercare.org. ***(UOG)***

PROJECT: PROM

Staff and volunteers of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence are seen at the Minachom Atdao for the Project: PROM clothing drive last Saturday. The coalition will host a mini-fashion show to feature the donations they received for their initiative, which seeks to make prom affordable for high school students while encouraging them to become advocates against violence in the community.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 4, 2000

Permit delay hinders construction of big hotel

A multi-million hotel project to be managed by Hilton International is facing rough sailing as a result of the delay it has encountered in acquiring a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. The Obyan Beach Resort project, to be undertaken by San Francisco-based Haas & Haynie Corp., will include the construction of 500-room hotel and two 18-hole championship golf courses. Investors of the project have met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio expressing their desire to continue with the planned development which has been stalled for four years now.

CDA asks $500K more from SBA

The Commonwealth Development Authority will seek additional funding from the Guam-based United States Small Business Administration to sustain the demand for small- and medium-scale business loans under its Microloan Program. Board Chairman John S. Tenorio said CDA would be asking SBA for at least $500,000 in additional funds to meet the need for start-up and expansion capital by Northern Marianas entrepreneurs. Mr. Tenorio said at least 11 small-scale businessmen obtained fresh capital from the Microloan Program instituted by the development authority through a seed fund obtained from the Small Business Administration.

Apr. 4, 2001

AGO says titles may be transferred to govt entities

Legal impediments in the operation of financing programs of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development in the CNMI have all been cleared after the Attorney General said a transfer of title can occur between local and federal governmental agencies. The Attorney General's opinion is expected to ease doubts regarding whether NMHC can actually enter a Memorandum Of Agreement with HUD in connection with its housing programs. Attorney General Herbert D. Soll clarified the issue of whether NMHC is considered a person of the Northern Marianas descent in connection with Article XII of the CNMI Constitution.

Businessmen asked to press repeal of 3-yr. stay limit law

As the Senate prepares to debate on what bill it would choose to decide the fate of Public Law 11-69, Saipan Chamber of Commerce leaders yesterday urged members and non-members alike to attend the session tomorrow. Chamber President Anthony Pellegrino called on all businessmen in the Commonwealth to go up to Capitol Hill and voice their support for either the repeal of the three-year limit law or Senator Ramon Guerrero's compromise bill. "The Senate will be debating on the three-year limit this Thursday. This would be a make or break deal for all of us. Businessmen should all come in full force to show our unity in this issue," Mr. Pellegrino said.

Apr. 4, 2002

CPA sets sight on better NMI ports

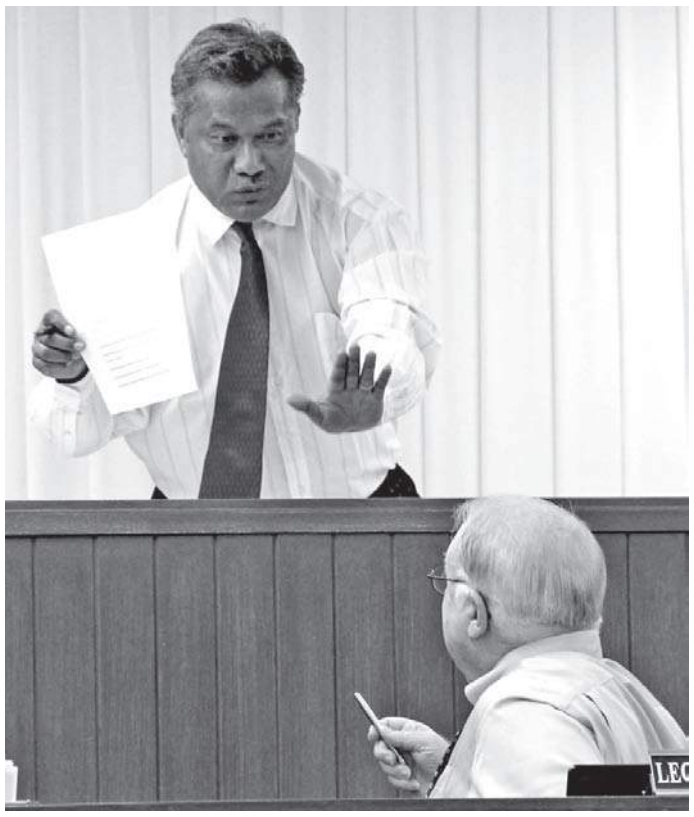
The Commonwealth Ports Authority will continue to implement aggressive programs to improve port facilities and deliver port services without straining local coffers amid the continued decline of the local economy. This was promised by CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas whose contract was renewed by the CPA Board after two consecutive 30-day extensions. In a memorandum released to all members of the CPA Board, Salas vowed to accept challenges posed by the economic hardships brought on by the September 11 tragedies in the United States and the Asian economic crunch.

OPA rebuffs Maritech anew

The Office of the Public Auditor has rebuffed the second appeal filed by an information technology company, after the Department of Finance expressed its intent to award a contract for computer programming services to A.O. Enterprises. In a decision addressed to G. Anthony Long, legal counsel for the Marianas Information Technology Corp. (Maritech) dated April 2, Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan said Maritech's arguments failed to convince the OPA that its original decision contained errors that would require a reversal or changes in that decision. "We affirm the findings of fact presented in our appeal decision, as well as our legal conclusions.... Maritech's request for reconsideration is denied in its entirety," said . This was the second denial made by the OPA on the appeals filed by Maritech in connection with this case.

Island Snapshots

FUTURE CHEFS
Chefs in the making at Tanapag Elementary School: Congratulations to, from left, Julie Anne Loong, Magdalena Lieto, Florenzo Babauta, Rinisa Torres, and Acelia Dela Cruz (not shown) for winning the 4th-6th Grade Category of the PSS "Get Your Plate in Shape" Recipe Contest on Saturday, March 31, at the PIC Ironwood Lawn. We are so proud of your accomplishments!



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

STOP!
Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), top, gestures as he discusses a local bill with House legal counsel John Cool at the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation session on Thursday.

U.S. NAVY/GABRIELLE BLAKE

SILVER PLATE AWARDEE
TAMUNING, Guam—Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, commander, Joint Region Marianas, awards Yeoman 2nd Class (AW) Cheryllyn Santos, of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam, the Silver Plate Award during the Silver Plate Awards Ceremony at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort on March 30. The ceremony honored Coast Guardsmen, Marines and Sailors of the Year.

U.S. NAVY/GABRIELLE BLAKE

TAMUNING, Guam—Sailors from commands around Guam come together for the Silver Plate Ceremony at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort on March 30, to honor the Coast Guardsmen, Marines and Sailors of the Year.

U.S. NAVY/GABRIELLE BLAKE

TAMUNING, Guam—U.S. Naval Hospital Guam Color Guard retires the colors during the Silver Plate Ceremony at Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort on March 30. The ceremony was held to honor Coast Guardsmen, Marines and Sailors of the Year.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to Rebecca "Bekke" White, who is celebrating her birthday today, April 4! May the good Lord above continue to bless you with many more birthdays to come! Always stay fierce and fabulous! Much love always from your children, family, and your "crew."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Joanie Parasio, who is celebrating her special day today, April 4, 2012! Hoping that your day will be as special as you are! Greetings come from Joseph and Brianna.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Rex Ben, who is celebrating his special day today, April 4, 2012! God made fathers so that children learn how to stay levelheaded, survive the storm, and become strong and unbreakable. We thank you for passing on all these qualities to us. Happy birthday, Tatay! Greetings come from Royce, Rane, Roxanne

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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'Facts' on economy that wouldn't fool a fifth-grader

By DAN RODRICKS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

The shad, America's founding fish, has started its annual run up the Chesapeake Bay and into the Susquehanna River, and here in Maryland, Land of Pleasant Living, there's been a run of foolish facts, too. My e-mail box has been full of them lately, a sudden spring run stirred to life by recent columns on Maryland's many millionaires and the wild idea that they should pay income taxes at a higher rate than the rest of us.

"Your commentary this morning helps me understand why our country is in such a dire situation," began one of several letters I received about a column on the well-off's cranky attitude toward taxes. The writer's name was Steve, a self-described conservative and "ashamed" Democrat.

"Let me explain this in a way even a fifth grader can understand," he wrote.

"Let's take a block of 20 houses. In 10 of the houses hard-working, successful families pay their taxes in a progressive manner. In two of the houses live people that truly need help. They are the elderly, disabled and hard-working-but-temporarily-down-on-their-luck.

"In the other eight houses are people that do not work, do not try to work, and have been conditioned to depend on the government for their funding.

"This is roughly where we are now in this country—the hard-working and well-off have no problem paying for the two houses of elderly and down-on-their-luck. The problem is paying for those living the liberal dream of cradle-to-grave government assistance."

So Steve's snapshot of America has 50 percent of the country working and paying taxes, while 10 percent are the deserving needy and a whopping 40 percent are lazy welfare recipients.

This is what we call "foolish facts," a figment of the conservative imagination.

I checked Steve's "math" with Michael Reisch, professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and an expert in the nation's social welfare apparatus and funding.

"Absurd," Mr. Reisch said of Steve's 40 percent freeloader category. "The number of persons receiving welfare (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) has been dramatically slashed since 1996. It's now just over 7 million persons—or less than 3 percent of the population—and 70 percent of the persons receiving TANF are dependent children. That leaves a little over 2 million adults on welfare. Even if all of these adults were 'freeloaders,' they constitute less than 1 percent of the population."

So, Steve's math was just a bit off—by maybe 39 percent.

He suffers from an impression of the American welfare state that is way out of date and was never as bad as critics claimed. He also sees it as part of a political plot: "The liberal Democratic way of controlling people."

Of course, Steve is also a defender of the right of the rich to keep even more of their money.

"The top 10 percent pay 70 percent of the income taxes in this country already," he said, using a phrase from a much-quoted study by the Heritage Foundation. "When is it progressive enough for you, Dan? ... It is a mathematical fact that the liberal feel-good policies and spinning cannot erase. Dan, are you smarter than a fifth grader?"

I went over this last August. Republican presidential candidates were saying that more Americans should pay income taxes, so I looked into it.

Sure enough, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Cen-

See FACTS on Next Page

Wednesday's child

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Monday's child is fair of face
Tuesday's child is full of grace,
Wednesday's child is full of woe...
so goes the familiar nursery rhyme on fortune telling.

Some Christians shifted Wednesday's woe to Friday's because of Jesus' crucifixion, elevated into religious dramaturgy by the faithful and into the realm of theological speculation in all its heavenly grandeur, especially when the discipline was still the queen of the sciences.

Wednesday's Child programs in the United States are for children with special needs, the focus on the "need," requiring emotive emphasis to get the requisite attention for sympathetic support to fund research and cure, in-kind donations of logistics, or just plain common sentiment.

April is National Autism Awareness Month, observed by some in the United States since 1970. Eliciting at the start condemnation for the so-called "refrigerator moms," the post-WWII working woman whose attention is often broader than just raising a child, we now have autism gaining global concern for its epidemic proportion, with some still treating the phenomenon as befitting the hush-hush room at the back of the house, and others making it a boutique designers' mind-robe to drape the Dustin Hoffman "Rainbow Man" category.

The child "full of woe" designation is the "child of stars" in Chinese nomenclature. Their glitter is transcendent and mysterious; it is special by immediate acclamation, the recognition of being is made before demonstration of specialty. The "child of stars" is neither hidden nor shunned. Special schools are emerging that recognize the "differently-abled" quality of children, rather than their alleged disabilities!

The word is out. Every child comes into the world already a "winner" in the sperm lottery of Dad, and the free decisive choosing ovum of Mom, and together, in a journey of just nine months, collaboratively crafted one of the most complicated and sophisticated organisms on the planet. Babes do not need to prove themselves; they do not need to pass tests to qualify as humans. They just need to be reminded that they can live the awesomeness of their existence in full celebration and delight.

"Out of the mouth of babes...," we are oft to say when truth is reflexively blurted out from a child. One of my grandsons near Chicago was rushed to the ER showing symptoms associated with meningitis, and after a battery of tests and a three-day confinement for observations in the hospital, an identified infected lymph node got bombarded swiftly with antibiotics. A relieved Mama hacking her profession on her laptop at the hospital bundled off the young one, only to be asked by the nurse to have him say "Ah" one more time. My grandson stood up, looked the nurse straight in the eye, and boldly asserted: "Enough!" Smiling, he led Mom out of the room!

Something of that decisiveness must have infected the confidence and conviction of that carpenter from Galilee who stood up under the shadows of Solomon's portico to say simply: "It has been said of old, but I say unto you…" It must have been words of arrogance at a time when the "experts" of the law were the recognized speakers with authority and finality. It is the ring of authenticity that delivers authority in our time, as I suspect was the same in Jesus' time. Of course, we have made a mockery of the tradition from the Galilean hills' pedagogue by making an icon out of His image. Like His disciples who witnessed transfiguration on the mountaintop, suggested that they construct a tabernacle rather than mingle once more with the world's hoi polloi, we are often stuck with the protection of the cathedrals rather than promote the functions they serve. Our heroes are idols of adulation rather than trailblazing exemplars in forging the new!

The prophetic and messianic voice of Galilee, nevertheless, resonates among many folks today who find timber in their voices to say, "Enough already!" Ways of operating and visions of a previous time are to be respected, but the paradigm shifting required is more than just "occupying space" to demonstrate dismay. Sadly, paradigm shifters resign if they are MDs at CHC!

We require transformation in the way we operate and the way we create visions that guide our strategies, in our lifestyles as individuals, in the debilitating remains of hierarchical structures that define corporate organizations on a pecking order, and the sorry state of our ecology as we continue to prefer industrial gain and easy profit to the health of the planet and its citizens.

The United Methodist Church holds its quadrennial General Conference in Florida at the end of the month, a turning point as the denominations' finance is fueled by methane, the tally of its members lost if unable to count beyond fingers and toes, and its "methodical" ways grossly stuck in 19th century evangelical movement of the American Midwest, particularly its foreign mission arm.

Remaining progressive voices can articulate the authority of authenticity, and with confidence and conviction similar to one who spoke in Jerusalem, declare the relevant struggles of our time, the responsible use of commons, the limits of private ownership, the effective human roles to be replicated, and the transforming story to be told appropriate for 2012.

What would Jesus say (WWJS) is not the issue. What do we say is.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Granting people their dignity

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

My work has brought me up close to leaders of all sorts. There's one thing they share: highly developed technical and intellectual capacities, most of whom are educated in colleges and universities between Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

They also share something else: leadership challenge and how they navigate emotionally charged situations. For all their technical expertise, they lack confidence when dealing with outraged subordinates; those who feel they were treated unfairly or the inconsistency of the boss who says one thing and does the exact opposite.

Unacknowledged grievances change the attitude of these folks into fighting men and women who'd snap at the slightest insult, even from co-workers. In other words, their bosses don't know what to do when faced with people who have experienced repeated violations of their dignity, which are by definition highly charged emotional events, explained Donna Hicks, Ph.D., an associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University and author of *Dignity: The Essential Role It Plays in Resolving Conflict*.

"Their default reaction is often to use their authority and the power of their position to control the situation, often leaving the aggrieved people angrier, more resentful, and less willing to extend themselves in their jobs or their roles within an organization. The dignity violations remained unaddressed, contaminating the work environment. A reason why the default reaction is to exert authority and control over a volatile emotional situation is that they are afraid of it. They are especially fearful of being exposed and embarrassed by a bad move or a flawed policy for which they were responsible," according to Dr. Hicks.

"I have seen otherwise brilliant leaders get caught in all of the predictable traps that ignorance of how to best handle dignity violations creates. They are not bad people who deliberately try to make life difficult for those whom they lead; they simply are clueless how to navigate through emotional turmoil. Without an education in matters related to dignity, a most vulnerable aspect of being human, even technically gifted and well-intentioned leaders can unknowingly create an undignified work environment.

"The need has never been more urgent for people in leadership positions to be educated in all matters related to dignity; both the human vulnerability to being violated, and the positive effect it has on people when they feel seen, heard, understood, and acknowledged as valuable and worthy.

"The emotional impact of treating someone well and honoring their dignity has benefits that are incalculable. It's the easiest and fastest way to bring out the best in people. The opposite is equally as true: treat people as if they don't matter and watch how fast a destructive, if not violent, emotional storm erupts.

"Leading with dignity means that leaders recognize this; that they are willing to embody what it looks like to treat others as valuable, to know what to do with people when they have been violated, and to know what to do when they have violated them. Establishing a culture of dignity in the workplace would go a long ways."

Personally, I've pushed people to the hilt, not that I want to be mean-spirited but to bring out the best in them. They may have seen it otherwise. For instance, I've encouraged former employees to take up courses at NMC to upgrade their skills and eventually place their AAs under their belt. An AA degree would soon become the minimum requirement in future jobs. It's the only reason why I've pushed for the acquisition of lifetime skills.

Definitely, the attitude of royal misfits could be found in some government employees. They neglect the fact that it is taxpayers who pay for their salaries. Yet there's the acquired attitude of arrogance as though it is taxpayers who owe them an arm and a leg. No sir! It's the other way around, like it or not.

Excuse me, sir, how about some sense of common decency and courtesy? How about going the extra mile to assist those who come for help? Do taxpayers owe you their livelihood? Why the arrogance and *fiesta de la mañana* when we are paying for your biweekly loot? Isn't it time that you buckle down and fulfill your duties and responsibilities?

In all interactions, personal dignity is the most important aspect of any and all employees. I will not rob them of it given that they have earned their stripes. In short, they have earned the respect of others, respect being a two-way street; grant them generously. I'd rather talk *with* them rather than *to* them. Respect, after all is reciprocal, never commanded nor demanded. At the end of the day, a happy worker goes the extra mile to do his best, contributing generously to the overall goals and objectives of the organization.

■ ■ ■

Need for desk audit

As scarce government revenues slide deeper south, it becomes mandatory that the local government seek desk audits of all departments and agencies to determine where real cuts ought to be made. You'd be surprise what this audit could reveal upon completion.

It probes positions and the qualifications of employees, demonstrating in no uncertain terms real qualifications or the lack of credentials and experience. It recommends cuts in salaries where qualifications are lacking. It may not be met with big smiles from employees, but this is how we build credibility into the merit system. You want a certain salary you must earn it and not be a beneficiary of political corruption at the expense of other equally deserving employees.

It also ensures retaining a truly qualified cadre of public servants fully aware of their roles in assisting the needs of the general public.

A desk audit was performed at the Department of Public Land six years ago. It shows how unbridled salary spikes have violated certain laws like there's no tomorrow. When the desk audit came, I implemented it accordingly, much to the displeasure of those who were making tons of money illegally. It obviates strengthening the merit system. It's the fairest way to earn your stripes and dues.

■ ■ ■

Indeed, how pleasant it is meeting highly motivated and fully trained employees in private industries, i.e., banks, hotels, or the service industry. I am proud of these employees who flash common courtesy as they assist you in your need. When it's done, they simply say, "Have a nice day." We don't hear nor see common courtesy in government other than a constipated "*hafa adai*." Embarrassing, huh?

Letters to the Editor

Change is already here

Several articles have been written about the various concerns about Article 12. It can't be denied that Article 12 is one of the components affecting our lives and the economy.

However, for this article, I am going to mention only the social parts relating to Article 12. Consider the following taken from the *Section by Section Analysis of the Covenant* and Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is highly recommended that these two documents be read so that we are all properly informed.

1. If a 100 percent Northern Marianas-descent couple adopts a non-NMD under 18 years of age, that child will become 100 percent NMD. This non-NMD child with no Chamorro or Carolinian blood is all of a sudden full NMD. Is this acceptable?

2. In a mixed marriage where an NMD and a non-NMD bear children, the children will be only 50 percent NMD at best. Yet, they have at least 50 percent Chamorro or Carolinian blood. Is this fair? Is this equality? Compare to No. 1 above.

3. In a marriage between an NMD and a non-NMD, property (purchased or inherited) can be passed on to the non-NMD spouse if the NMD spouse passes away. In other words, the non-NMD spouse will gain full ownership of the property upon the passing away of the NMD spouse. *However*, if there is a child or children, the non-NMD spouse is not entitled to any of the property. Isn't this contrary to what marriage is all about? Why is the non-NMD spouse not entitled to the property that both worked so hard to obtain simply because there are children? Is this fair? Is this what we want in a marriage involving non-NMDs? What are we saying?

4. A person under the age of 18 born of parents who are 100 percent NMD but adopted by a couple who are of mixed marriage in which one of the parents is a non-NMD becomes only 50 percent NMD. Why? What happened to his or her Chamorro or Carolinian blood?

5. There are non-Chamorros and non-Carolinians who because they were here in the CNMI at a certain period of time and met the definition of an NMD are therefore considered NMD. However, there are Chamorros from Saipan that, because they left Saipan and were not around at the time specified under the definition of an NMD, are not NMD—a foreigner in their own place. Is this fair? Is this even right?

All of the above can be resolved by abolishing Article 12. We again mention that abolishing Article 12 will not force anyone to sell his or her land. Abolishing Article 12 means the landowner can sell, lease, or pass the land to family without restriction to NMD's or non NMD's alike regardless of the percentage of blood. Abolishing Article 12 gives private property landowners full control of their private property.

Article 12 was put in the Constitution to protect us while we became educated and learned to work with the world economy and community. I firmly believe that after 25 years, we all should have the proper education and training to join the world community and most importantly to be able to manage our private belongings such as our private land.

Our community now consists of many different races. Look at our youth's last names. Many of them are not Chamorro or Carolinian. Many are a product of mixed marriages. We have already decided whether we agree or not to change. The best we can do is to embrace change as for the most part it is good and refreshing.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

Ironic

At a gas service station a sign reads "Conserve Energy." It is ironic that one would actually go against the grain of free enterprise principle in that to the service station conserving energy is the least of its worries. This reverse marketing is actually affecting the solvency of CUC, but does that mean that the management officials of this public corporation have good reason to blame the unexpected effect of energy conservation on their revenue stream as an uncontrollable factor? We are not interested in their story telling, we want them to focus on the root cause of the problem. Like the Retirement Fund, it has to cut cost. For CUC, it has to cut salaries across the board; there is no other outlet than this drastic measure. And time is not in their favor either, because people are beginning to cook with firewood and implementing survival skills like the good old days. So, what is CUC planning to do about this so-called compromise of positivism or phenomenalism? All thoughts would point to a hybrid compromise as the CNMI begins to deal with the death spiral effects of the lagging economy. The bottom line is we are paying good bucks to the management officials of CUC to solve problems, so what are they going to do about it?

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

FACTS

From Page 10

ter in Washington, about 46 percent of American "tax units" won't have to pay federal taxes on 2011 income. But for good reasons: They are poor, long-term unemployed, working poor with children, students or senior citizens living on benefits. So they get a break. They do, however, pay plenty of other taxes: payroll taxes, state and local income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes.

As for the Heritage Foundation's assertion that the top 1 percent of income earners pay a disproportionate share of federal income taxes, there's good reason for that, Steverino: They have most of the money, and they keep getting more. A March study from economist Emmanuel Saez at the University of California at Berkeley shows that in 2010, income for the nation's top 1 percent grew by 11.6 percent, while for the bottom 99 percent it grew only by 0.2 percent. The rich got richer—way richer. They should pay more in taxes and quit bellyaching. Even a fifth-grader would see that.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

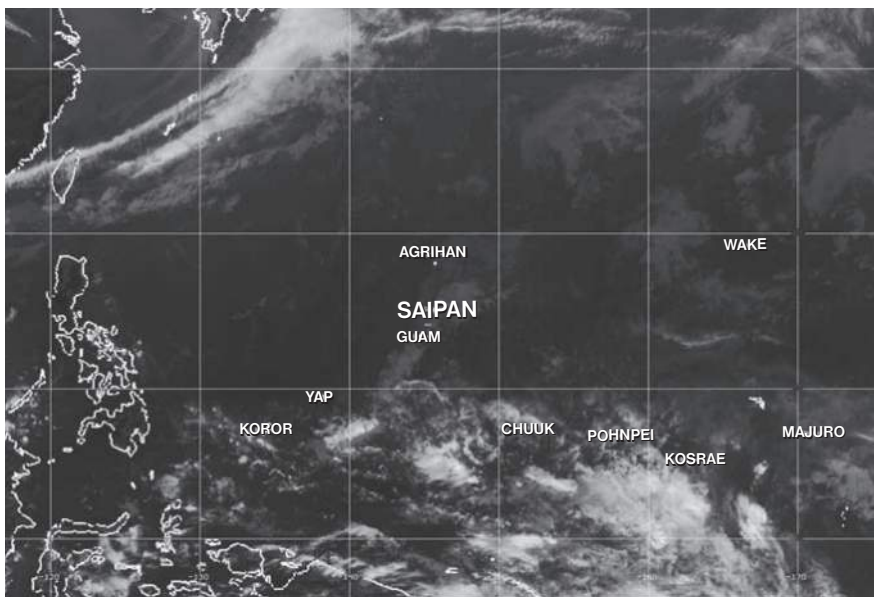
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲91	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲69	▼64
Beijing	Windy	▲65	▼38
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼69
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼69
London	Rain	▲43	▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲76	▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼71
New York	Sunny	▲62	▼47
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲57	▼49
Paris	Showers	▲55	▼40
Pusan	Windy	▲62	▼43
Rome	Showers	▲71	▼56
Salem	Rain	▲50	▼38
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼48
Seoul	Sunny	▲55	▼36
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲69	▼53

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough runs northward from 10N145E to 18N149E. Scattered showers are found just east of the Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 10N143E to 17N148E. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers west of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 22N163E to 19N161E and within 75 miles of a line from 19N161E to 16N165E to 16N170E. A near-equatorial trough extends from 3N130E to south of Pohnpei at 1N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae within 150 miles either side of a line from 6N145E to 1N164E. Scattered showers are also found Southeast of Yap within 50 miles of a line from 6N139E to 8N142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers within 250 miles either side of a line from 3N170E to 8N180 including Majuro and Tarawa.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:01 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:43 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:59 PM	3:43 AM
Thursday	4:57 PM	4:28 AM
Friday	5:57 PM	5:14 AM
Saturday	7:00 PM	6:03 AM
Sunday	8:04 PM	6:54 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Lobbying justices, Obama makes his health law case

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Monday issued a rare, direct challenge to the Supreme Court to uphold his historic health care overhaul, weighing in with a vigorous political appeal for judicial restraint. He warned that overturning the law would hurt millions of Americans and amount to overreach by the "unelected" court.

Obama predicted that a majority of justices would uphold the law when the ruling is announced in June. But the president, himself a former law professor, seemed intent on swaying uncertain views in the meantime, both in the court of public opinion and in the minds of the justices about not overstepping the high court's bounds.

"Ultimately, I'm confident that the Supreme Court will not take what would be an unprecedented, extraordinary step of overturning a law that was passed by a strong majority of a democratically elected Congress," Obama said at a Rose Garden news conference.

The majority he referenced was not quite that strong; Congress approved the law two years ago in hard-fought party-line votes after a divisive national debate. Republican presidential contenders say they will make sure it is repealed if the Supreme Court doesn't throw it out first.

For a president to weigh in so forcefully about a case currently under deliberation by the Supreme Court is unusual, and it speaks to the stakes at hand.

The law is the signature domestic achievement of Obama's term and already a prominent source of debate in the presidential campaign. The Supreme Court will decide whether to strike down part or all of the law, including its centerpiece requirement that nearly all Americans carry insurance or pay a penalty.

Obama essentially sought to reset the public view of the case to where the White House thought the baseline lay before the attention-grabbing court arguments and the commentary that followed—that striking down the law would be a surprising reach for the court, and that the heart of the law is likely to be upheld.

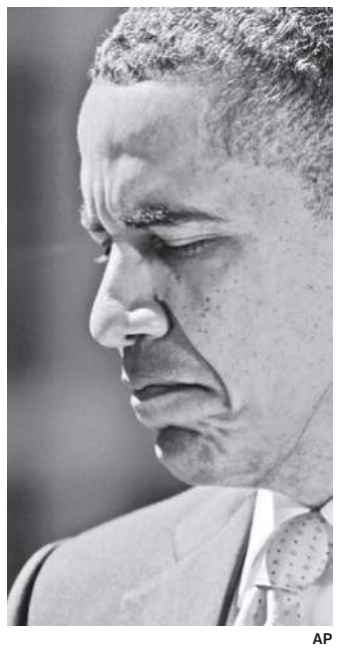
Up for re-election, Obama also wanted to remind people about the law's purpose in real-life terms, as opposed to the abstract concept of whether it is constitutional to require insurance coverage. Yet to those whose opinions ultimately matter—the justices—he may have spoken too late to adjust the fate.

After holding three days of arguments, the justices met Friday to hold an initial vote, as is custom. So the outcome may already be set. Justices may change their vote between that first meeting and the time when the opinion is released, but that is fairly unusual.

Obama was primed to answer on Monday when asked about the law; this was his time to argue. His comments were his first since last week's arguments, during which the law was questioned, sometimes in deeply critical terms, by the court's most conservative justices and by presumed swing voter Justice Anthony Kennedy.

The four liberal justices seemed likely to vote to uphold it.

On that core point of requiring people to have insurance, Obama seemed to send a message directly to the justices.



AP

President Barack Obama pauses during a joint news conference with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and Mexican President Felipe Calderon, not seen, Monday, April 2, 2012, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

"I think the American people understand—and I think the justices should understand—that in the absence of an individual mandate, you cannot have a mechanism to ensure that people with pre-existing conditions get health care," Obama said.

"So there's not only an economic element to this and a legal element to this, but there's a human element to this. I hope that's not forgotten in this political debate."

Obama also made a broader case against his conservative Republican antagonists by challenging them on a matter dear to them: stopping overreach by the courts.

"For years what we've heard is the biggest problem on the bench was judicial activism or a lack of judicial restraint—that an unelected group of people would somehow overturn a duly constituted and passed law," Obama said.

"Well, this is a good example," he said. "And I'm pretty confident that this Court will recognize that and not take that step."

Obama declined to answer what contingencies his administration might have in mind if the court does overturn the law.

He used most of his comments to explain the ways he believes the law is helping people, including young adults who are now allowed to stay longer on their parents' health insurance, or seniors who are paying less for prescriptions. He said that doesn't count the 30 million who ultimately stand to gain coverage they now lack.

In the court arguments, conservative justices raised questions about Congress' power to force people to buy health insurance.

The White House has cautioned anyone against drawing conclusions from the justices' lines of questioning.

Obama said flatly he is confident the court will uphold the law: "The reason is because, in accordance with precedent out there, it's constitutional."

Obama is a graduate of Harvard Law School, and before entering politics he taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Data breach put 1.5M numbers at risk

NEW YORK (AP)—A company that processes credit card transactions said Monday that as many as 1.5 million card numbers were compromised in a data breach early last month. The CEO of the company, Global Payments Inc., said the matter was "absolutely contained," but Visa dropped the company from its list of approved third parties that process transactions between stores and banks. The breach was revealed Friday when Visa and MasterCard said they had notified issuers of its credit cards. On Monday, American Express said it may have been affected, and Discover promised to reissue cards where appropriate.

Avon slams door on Coty's $10 billion offer

NEW YORK (AP)—Coty came calling, but Avon slammed the door. Struggling cosmetics seller Avon Products Inc. on Monday rejected a $10 billion buyout offer from Coty Inc., a smaller beauty products maker looking to capitalize on Avon's business woes. The $23.25-per-share bid marked a 20 percent premium to Avon's closing stock price Friday. Avon said that was too low. But investors frustrated with the company's shrinking profits and disappointing sales growth sent the stock soaring 17 percent on the news.

US factory output rises, but construction falls

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. factories stepped up hiring and production in March, the latest evidence that manufacturing is growing at a healthy pace and fueling the recovery. But a separate report on construction spending showed that building activity declined in February for the second straight month, disappointing economists. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said Monday that its index of manufacturing activity rose to 53.4 in March. That's up from 52.4 in the previous month. Readings above 50 indicate the sector is expanding.

Euro unemployment spikes to 10.8 percent

LONDON (AP)—Unemployment in the 17 countries that use the euro hit its highest level since the currency was introduced back in 1999, official figures showed Monday, adding to fears that the region is in recession. Eurostat, the European Union's statistics office, said unemployment in the eurozone rose to 10.8 percent in February from 10.7 percent the previous month. The number of unemployed totaled 17.1 million, nearly 1.5 million higher than the same month a year ago. Of the 17 countries in the eurozone, seven countries had unemployment rates of above 10 per cent. The figures stand in marked contrast to the U.S.—with an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent—which has recorded solid increases in the number of people finding work over the past few months.

AP

This March 23, 2012 photo provided by Terrafugia Inc. shows the company's prototype flying car, dubbed the Transition, during its first flight.

Flying car gets closer to reality with test flight

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP AUTO WRITER

Woburn, Mass.-based Terrafugia Inc. said Monday that its prototype flying car has completed its first flight, bringing the company closer to its goal of selling the flying car within the next year. The vehicle—dubbed the Transition—has two seats, four wheels and wings that fold up so it can be driven like a car. Last month, it flew at 1,400 feet for eight minutes. Commercial jets fly at 35,000 feet.

Around 100 people have already put down a $10,000 deposit to get a Transition when they go on sale, and those numbers will likely rise after Terrafugia introduces the Transition to the public later this week at the New York Auto Show. But don't expect it to show up in too many driveways. It's expected to cost $279,000.

And it won't help if you're stuck in traffic. The car needs a runway.

The flying car has always had a special place in the American imagination. Inventors have been trying to make them since the 1930s, according to Robert Mann, an airline industry analyst who owns R.W. Mann & Co. in Port Washington, N.Y.

But Mann thinks Terrafugia has come closer than anyone to making the flying car a reality. The government has already granted the company's request to use special tires and glass that are lighter than normal automotive ones, to make it easier for the vehicle to fly. The government has also temporarily exempted the Transition from the requirement to equip vehicles with electronic stability control, which would add about six pounds to the vehicle. The Transition is currently going through a battery of automotive crash tests to make sure it meets federal safety standards.

Mann said Terrafugia was helped by the Federal Aviation Administration's decision five years ago to create a separate set of standards for light sport aircraft. The standards govern the size and speed of the plane and licensing requirements for pilots, which are less restrictive than requirements for pilots of larger planes. Terrafugia says an owner would need to pass a test and complete 20 hours of flying time to be able to fly the Transition, a relatively low hurdle for pilots.

The Transition can reach around 70 miles per hour on the road and 115 in the air, spokesman Steven Moscaritolo said. It flies using a 23-gallon tank of automotive fuel and burns 5 gallons per hour in the air. On the ground, it gets 35 miles per gallon.

Mann questions the size of the market for the Transition. The general aviation market has been in decline for two decades, he said, largely because of fuel costs and the high cost of liability for manufacturers. Also, fewer people are learning how to fly.

"This is not going to be an inexpensive aircraft to produce or market," he said. "It has some uniqueness, and will get some sales, but the question is, could it ever be a profitable enterprise?"

Mann sees the western U.S. as the most likely market, where people could fly instead of driving long distances.

Terrafugia has been working on flying cars since 2006, and has already pushed back the launch once. Last summer the company said it would have to delay expected 2011 deliveries due to design challenges and problems with parts suppliers.

With the appearance in New York, the company hopes to attract the eye of customers as well as investors.

"We are introducing ourselves as a viable company to the automotive world," Moscaritolo said.

Nation

Man kills 7, wounds 3 at small Christian college

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A 43-year-old former student of a small Christian university in California opened fire at the school Monday, killing at least seven people and setting off an intense, chaotic manhunt that ended with his capture at a nearby shopping center, authorities said.

Police Chief Howard Jordan said One L. Goh surrendered about an hour after the shooting at Oikos University. Jordan initially reported that authorities recovered the weapon used during the rampage, but later clarified that police only recovered enough ballistics evidence to determine that a handgun was used in the rampage.

"It's going to take us a few days to put the pieces together," Jordan said. "We do not have a motive."

Police first received a 911 call at 10:33 a.m. reporting a woman on the ground bleeding. As more calls came in from the school, the first arriving officer found a victim suffering from a life-threatening gunshot wound, he said.

It was an "extremely chaotic scene," Jordan said.

More officers arrived and formed a perimeter around the school on the belief that the suspect was still inside, he said.

"Potential victims remained inside the building either trapped by a locked door which officers were unable to open," Jordan said. Others were unable to flee because they were injured, he said.

Jordan said there were about 35 people in or near the building when gunfire broke out. Of the seven fatalities, five died at the scene and another two at the hospital. The wounded victims are in stable condition, and at least one person has been released from the hospital.

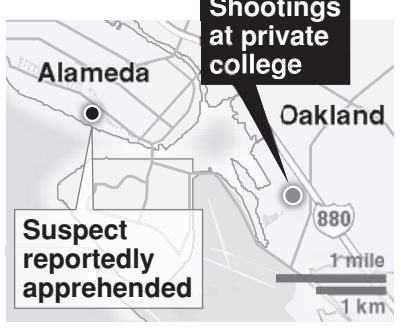
"This unprecedented tragedy was shocking and senseless," Jordan said.

Soon after the shooting, heavily armed officers swarmed the school in a large industrial park near the Oakland airport and, for at least an hour, believed the gunman could still be inside.

Art Richards said he was driving by the university on his way to pick up a friend when he spotted a woman hiding in the bushes and pulled over. When he approached her, she said, "I'm shot" and showed him her arm.

AP

Oakland Police cover bodies near Oikos University in Oakland, Calif., Monday.



Source: ESRI, TeleAtlas © 2012 MCT

"She had a piece of her arm hanging out," Richards said, noting that she was wounded near the elbow.

As police arrived, Richards said he heard 10 gunshots coming from inside the building. The female victim told him that she saw the gunman shoot one person point-blank in the chest and one in the head.

Tashi Wangchuk, whose wife attended the school and witnessed the shooting, said he was told by police that the gunman first shot a woman at the front desk, then continued shooting randomly in classrooms. Wangchuk said his wife, Dechen Wangzom, was in her vocational nursing class when she heard gunshots. She locked the door and turned off the lights, Wangchuk said he was told by his wife, who was still being questioned by police Monday afternoon.

The gunman "banged on the door several times and started shooting outside and left," he said. Wangchuk said no one was hurt inside his wife's classroom, but that the gunman shot out the glass in the door. He said she did not know the man.

"She's a hero," he said.

Television footage showed bloodied victims on stretchers being loaded into ambulances. Several bodies covered in sheets were laid out on a patch of grass at the school. One body could be seen being loaded into a van.

Myung Soon Ma, the school's secretary, said she could not provide any details about what happened at the private school, which serves the Korean community with courses from theology to Asian medicine.

"I feel really sad, so I cannot talk right now," she said, speaking from her home.

Those connected to the school, including the founder and several students, described the gunman as a former nursing student. The chief said Goh is a Korean national who's a former student of the university.

A call to the Korean consulate in San Francisco went unanswered Monday.

At Highland Hospital, Dawinder Kaur's family told the Oakland Tribune that she was being treated for a gunshot to her elbow.

The 19-year-old U.S. Army Reservist told her family that that the gunman was a student in her nursing class who had been absent for months before returning Monday. The gunman entered the classroom and ordered students to line up against the wall.

When he showed his gun, students began running and he opened fire, her family said. "She told me that a guy went crazy and she got shot," brother Paul Singh told the newspaper. "She was running. She was crying; she was bleeding, it was wrong."

Pastor Jong Kim, who founded the school about 10 years ago, told the newspaper that he did not know if the shooter was expelled or dropped out. Kim said he heard about 30 rapid-fire gunshots in the building.

"I stayed in my office," he said.

Deborah Lee, who was in an English language class, said she heard five to six gunshots at first. "The teacher said, `Run,' and we run," she said. "I was OK, because I know God protects me. I'm not afraid of him."

The suspect was detained at a Safeway supermarket about three miles from the university, about an hour after the shooting.

A security guard at the supermarket approached the man because he was acting suspiciously, KGO-TV reported. The man told the guard that he needed to talk to police because he shot people, and the guard called authorities.

"He didn't look like he had a sign of relief on him. He didn't look like he had much of any emotion on his face," said Lisa Resler, who was buying fruit at Safeway with her 4-year-old daughter when she saw the man.

Goh also called his father soon after the shooting and told him what happened, the police chief said. The father also called authorities, Jordan said.

Police went to the Westlake Christian Terrace senior housing complex on Monday afternoon to speak with a relative of Goh, Nam Ko Young, who's believed to be the man's father, said Young's neighbor, Barbara Ferguson.

Romney halfway to clinching GOP nomination

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney is halfway to clinching the Republican nomination for president.

The former Massachusetts governor inched up to 572 delegates on Monday—exactly half the 1,144 needed—after the Tennessee Republican Party finalized delegate totals from its March 6 primary. Results in several congressional districts were too close to call on election night, leaving three delegates unallocated.

Romney got all three delegates. He also picked up an endorsement from a New Hampshire delegate who had been awarded to former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman. Huntsman dropped out of the race in January and endorsed Romney.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul, meanwhile, won a Minnesota delegate over the weekend that had been allocated to former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum. Santorum won two delegates and Paul won one at Minnesota's 7th Congressional District convention.

Santorum had been projected to win all three delegates, based on the results of local caucuses in February.

Romney

Romney and Santorum have been sparring over the delegate count for weeks. Romney's campaign says there is no way for Santorum to reach the number of delegates needed to clinch the nomination, portraying the race as all but over. Santorum's campaign says Romney's numbers are inflated, raising the prospect of a contested convention in August.

According to the Associated Press tally, Romney has more than twice as many delegates as Santorum. Santorum has 272 delegates, followed by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich with 135 and Texas Rep. Ron Paul with 51.

Romney has won 54 percent of the primary and caucus delegates so far, putting him on pace to clinch the nomination in June. Romney could substantially add to his lead Tuesday, when 95 delegates will be at stake in three primaries, in Wisconsin, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Tuesday's contests mark the midway point in the race for delegates.

A total of 2,286 delegates are slated to attend the party's national convention in Tampa, Fla.—2,169 will be selected through primaries, caucuses and state conventions, while 117 are members of the Republican National Committee, free to support any candidate they choose.

Santorum, who has won 27 percent of the primary and caucus delegates so far, would need 74 percent of the remaining delegates to clinch the nomination before the national convention. Gingrich would need 86 percent and Paul would have to win nearly all of them, which won't happen because most states award delegates proportionally.

Interest in 1940 US census paralyzes website

NEW YORK (AP)—Interest in the newly released 1940 U.S. census is so great that the government website with the information was nearly paralyzed shortly after the records became available to the public for the first time.

Miriam Kleiman, spokeswoman for the U.S. National Archives, told The Associated Press that the site registered more than 22 million hits in just four hours on Monday, from almost 2 million users. In a tweet posted after 5 p.m. on its official Twitter account, the archives said the website had received 37 million hits since the information was released at 9 a.m.

The government released the records for the first time after 72 years of confidentiality expired.

It's the largest collection of digital information ever released by the National Archives. The records allow individuals and families to learn details about their past.

Susan Cooper, a second spokeswoman, said the problems began as soon as the information was released on the website. She termed the problems a "virtual traffic jam."

"We anticipate that this jam will ease up by this evening," Cooper said. "The problem is, we just weren't expecting the huge volume that we got."

Computer experts were working on the site to bring it up to speed as soon as possible. Cooper did not give an exact time when the site would be fully operational.

"We're adding a lot more servers, a lot more muscle to the website," she said.

More than 21 million people still alive in the U.S. and Puerto Rico were counted in the 1940 census. The census followed a decade when tens of millions of people in the U.S. experienced mass unemployment and social upheaval as the nation clawed its way out of the Great Depression and rumblings of global war were heard from abroad.

Asia

Suu Kyi's near-sweep raises Myanmar democracy hope

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi's victory in parliamentary elections is the biggest prize of her political career. But the weekend vote for only a few dozen legislative seats may have sown the seeds of something far more significant—the possibility her party could sweep the next balloting in 2015 and take control of Myanmar's government.

That, for now, remains only a tantalizing dream for her supporters, and making it happen in three years may be unrealistic in a nation still heavily influenced by a feared military whose powers and influence remain enshrined in the constitution.

Still, hope for installing a truly free government hasn't run this high in decades.

"We hope this will be the beginning of a new era," a beaming 66-year-old Suu Kyi said in a brief victory speech Monday, one day after the by-election in which her National League for Democracy party won almost all of the 44 seats it contested.

The win was "not so much our triumph, as a triumph of the people," she told a euphoric, thousands-strong crowd gathered outside her tumbledown party headquarters in Yangon, where joyous supporters thrust hands in the air and monks cradled magazine-size posters bearing her image.

The last time her party won a landslide victory, during a general election in 1990, the then-ruling army junta annulled the results and stayed in power 21 more years.

Times have changed dramatically since then in Myanmar, previously called Burma. The junta is no more, and the country's new leaders—many of whom are former generals—have proven with Sunday's poll that they are capable of taking concrete steps toward democratic rule, even if they had little to lose by doing so this time around.

Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi talks to supporters at the headquarters of her National League for Democracy party in Yangon, Myanmar Monday, April 2, 2012.

AP

But much remains the same: The military and the retired generals who hold the nation's top posts still wield near-absolute power, and Suu Kyi and her party will occupy only a small minority in the 664-seat legislature—not enough to change a constitution engineered to keep the status quo by allotting 25 percent of parliament's seats to the army.

Reducing the military's participation in government "is one of the most important changes" that need to be made, said Su Su Lwin, an opposition candidate who also won a seat in Sunday's poll.

And perhaps one of the most difficult. "There's a lot of work ahead," she said.

The weekend election results, though, indicate that the popularity of the party Suu Kyi founded in 1988 remains strong—strong enough, perhaps, to secure the legislative majority it would need during the next national poll to choose the president.

It is unclear, however, whether Suu Kyi would run. She has not declared any intention to do so, but on Friday she said the by-election's outcome would "very much influence what happens in 2015."

A provision in Myanmar's constitution, though, bars people from the nation's top post if they or any of their relatives are foreign citizens. Suu Kyi married a British national, Michael Aris, who died in 1999, and their two children were born abroad and do not live in Myanmar.

There are also concerns over Suu Kyi's health. She suspended her last week of campaigning because of fatigue, and she would be 69 when the next vote is held.

Suu Kyi last week dismissed speculation she would accept a Cabinet post if offered one, saying, "I have no intention of leaving the parliament which I am trying so hard to get into."

There is speculation that the government is only using Suu Kyi to impress Western nations and get years of economic sanctions lifted. Still, her entry into the legislature is hugely symbolic, as is her party's overwhelming win.

"This election is an important step in Burma's democratic transformation, and we hope it is an indication that the government of Burma intends to continue along the path of greater openness, transparency, and reform," the White House said in a statement Monday.

Among the seats taken by the opposition Sunday were four in the capital, Naypyitaw, a ruling party stronghold which was built by the former junta. It was an embarrassing sign of defeat for the government.

"The people have made a statement," Su Su Lwin said. "They're saying—not only to the country, but to the rest of the world—that our people are ready for change."

Toe Toe Tin, a dentist who came to watch Suu Kyi speak, said the election was important because it was a referendum on the miserable state of life in the country. "It showed that people don't want this government or this army," she said.

There is little wonder why. Until last year, the military had kept an iron grip on power since 1962. Soldiers were accused by rights groups of dragging civilians to the front line in multiple wars with rebels in the north and east, of raping women and subjecting men even in their 70s to forced labor.

US faces limited options on North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite tough talk from President Barack Obama, the United States and its allies have limited options if North Korea goes ahead with its planned long-range rocket launch in mid-April.

Washington is likely to take the matter to the U.N. Security Council, analysts say, and could tighten its already tough sanctions. Such efforts would struggle without support from China, which can be expected to resist any moves that might threaten the stability of its neighbor.

There also is deep uncertainty about where turning the screw further on North Korea would lead. After the Security Council condemned its previous long-range rocket launch in 2009, North Korea responded by kicking out U.N. nuclear inspectors, pulling out of aid-for-disarmament negotiations and conducting its second detonation of an atomic device.

"At minimum, there has to be a statement of criticism" at the Security Council, said Gordon Flake, a Washington-based Korea analyst. "The question is how North Korea will react, and history suggests it won't react well."

The stakes are higher than they were in 2009 as the potential for tensions on the Korean peninsula to escalate into conflict are greater now than they were then. South Korea's government came under heavy domestic criticism for what was seen as a weak response to a North Korean artillery barrage that killed four people on a front-line island in 2010. Earlier that year, North Korea was believed to have torpedoed a South Korean warship, killing 46 sailors. The North denied responsibility.

North Korea says the missile launch is intended to place an observation satellite into orbit. But the U.S. and others view the launch as a cover for a test of an intercontinental ballistic missile that one day could carry a nuclear warhead.

Crucially for Washington, if the three-stage Unha-3 rocket works, it could demonstrate that North Korea has parts of the United States in its missile range.

The launch would violate both a U.N. ban and an accord the impoverished country reached with Washington on Feb. 29, under which it would freeze nuclear activities and observe a moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests in exchange for 240,000 metric tons of food aid.

The launch plans, disclosed a little more than two weeks after the accord was announced, undermined what little faith Washington and Seoul had in North Korea's sincerity about talks on its nuclear program. It also all but squashed the fleeting prospect that the nation would change after the December death of longtime ruler Kim Jong Il.

Bin Laden's relatives get short prison sentence

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A Pakistani court sentenced Osama bin Laden's three widows and two of his daughters to 45 days in prison on Monday for illegally living in the country, ordering them deported when the sentence ends, their lawyer said.

With credit for time served, the women and several of their other children will leave Pakistan later this month, said lawyer Mohammed Amir Khalil. They have been in detention since American commandos killed bin Laden in a large house in the Pakistani town of Abbottabad on May 2, but they were formally charged with immigration offenses only last month. The Americans left the women and children behind in the house after they flew off with bin Laden's corpse.

The women may have information about how bin Laden managed to remain undetected for close to 10 years after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S., despite being the subject of a massive international manhunt. The youngest, 30-year-old Yemeni wife Amal Ahmed Abdel-Fatah al-Sada, has told investigators bin Laden lived in five houses while on the run and fathered four children, two of whom were born in Pakistani government hospitals.

Pakistani officials have said they had no idea the al-Qaida chief was in Abbottabad, something many in Washington found hard to believe because his compound was located close to Pakistan's equivalent of the West Point military academy. The U.S. has not found evidence indicating senior Pakistani officials knew of bin Laden's whereabouts, but said he must have had some form of "support network."

Two of the widows are Saudi and one is Yemeni. Khalil said Yemen has consented to the return, but he is still in discussions with Saudi officials. Saudi Arabia stripped bin Laden of his citizenship in 1994 because of his verbal attacks against the Saudi royal family.

Al-Sada was overjoyed to finally be heading home, said her brother, Zakaria al-Sada, who has been campaigning for her release. Yemen has issued her five children passports so they can return with her, he said.

"This verdict is a victory for the oppressed after a tough time," he said.

A member of the bin Laden family in Saudi Arabia, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said they had talked to Saudi officials, who indicated they would be willing to allow the widows to return and grant their children citizenship if requested. But the family, which is prominent and wealthy, has not decided whether to intervene on the women's behalf, he said.

ASIA BRIEFS

Bomb kills Afghan police officer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan police say a motorcycle bomb has killed one police officer and wounded two others in a southern city. Kandahar provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Razaq says the motorcycle was parked outside a police station in Kandahar city when it exploded on Monday. The governor in the northern Baghlan province says twin bomb blasts in the city of New Baghlan on Monday wounded 23 people, including eight police officers. Governor Abdul Majid said the bombs exploded near a market selling computer equipment.

Gunmen in police uniforms abduct Philippine mayor

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities say gunmen wearing police uniforms abducted a town mayor while he was inspecting a bus terminal in the country's restive southern region. Police say Mayor Jeffrey Lim of Salug town was dragged into a waiting van Monday evening, which was later found burned with no trace of the victim or the suspects. Regional police director Napoleon Estilles said Tuesday that authorities are investigating the motive and the gunmen's identities. Checkpoints were set up to intercept them. Ransom kidnappings are common in the southern Philippines, where proliferation of weapons, weak law enforcement and a long-running Muslim rebellion are behind decades-long unrest. Mayors are rarely targeted, however. Kidnappers last month released two teachers.

World

Syrian forces storm rebel areas, torch homes

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian government sent troops backed by tanks into rebellious areas Monday, hunting down activists and torching their homes and bulldozing others, opposition groups said.

At the United Nations, international envoy Kofi Annan set an April 10 deadline for full compliance with a peace plan to end the violence in Syria. He also told the Security Council at a closed door briefing Monday that Damascus has agreed to withdraw its troops from cities by that date, reversing its previous refusal to implement the measure, diplomats said.

The opposition is deeply skeptical of Assad's intention to abide by his promises, describing it as another attempt to buy time while government troops continue their assault on the rebels.

Several times over the past few months, the Assad regime has agreed to a peace plan, only to ignore it on the ground. Most recently, it signed on to a plan by Annan, but then rejected his appeal for the government to lay down its weapons before the rebels did.

Also, several months ago Syria accepted an Arab League plan to send monitors to work for a cease-fire, but the mission collapsed in violence.

Activists on Monday said fierce clashes were taking place in the central region of Homs, after which rebels took control of the national hospital in the Jouret al-Shayah district. Human rights groups and the opposition have accused government forces of abusing and torturing wounded activists in the hospital in previous months. The Local Coordination Committees and the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said rebels found around 70 unidentified bodies in the hospital refrigerators, apparently belonging to people killed in earlier fighting.

AP

In this Sunday, April 1, 2012 photo, Syrians chant slogans against President Bashar Assad upon the arrival of the Free Syrian Army in a neighborhood of Damascus, Syria.

In the south, dozens of tanks surrounded the town of Dael early Monday before troops pushed in, shooting holes in rooftop water tanks and targeting dozens of activists' houses, torching some and bulldozing others, said local activist Adel al-Omari.

"They focused on the activists. They have their names and have been tracking them," al-Omari said, speaking by telephone from a garden in Dael where he was hiding. "They went in and spread fuel to totally burn them down."

Activists said government troops also set fire to homes in the northwestern village of Haas, where one activist said they killed seven people in one house.

"The regime forces have pretty much stopped arresting people," activist Fadi al-Yassin said via Skype. "They either kill them right away or keep them for one day to get information and then kill them."

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on an activist network in Syria, said at least 8 houses were burned in Haas and that two civilians and five rebel fighters were killed, among at least 24 killed nationwide.

The activists' claims could not be independently verified. The Syrian government rarely comments on specific incidents and bars most media from working inside the country.

The fresh violence underlined how little international diplomacy has curbed the crisis in Syria, which began more than a year ago with largely peaceful protests calling for political reforms. Assad's government has unleashed a punishing crackdown to try to crush the spreading dissent, prompting many in the opposition to take up arms and fight back. The U.N. says more than 9,000 people have been killed.

Colombia guerrillas free captives held 12 years

VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia (AP)—Colombia's main rebel group on Monday freed what it says were its last 10 military and police captives, returning the men to their families after at least 12 years spent in jungle prisons.

The release of the six police and four soldiers highlighted efforts to seek peace talks by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Latin America's oldest and most potent guerrilla band, which has been weakened by Colombia's U.S.-backed military.

Flown from a jungle rendezvous aboard a loaned Brazilian air force helicopter emblazoned with the Red Cross logo, the freed captives waved jubilantly.

They were escorted from the Super Cougar helicopter by nurses to awaiting relatives for reunions behind closed doors. Some jumped for joy on the tarmac.

Pets accompanied some of the men: a peccary, a monkey, two small birds. A few wore the Colombian flag over their shoulders. All looked newly shaven

Their loved ones were overjoyed. "I shouted! I jumped up and down!" said Olivia Solarte when got first word her 41-year-old son, police officer Trujillo had been freed. He'd been held since July 1999.

The group was flown to Bogota where other relatives were waiting along with obligatory hospital stays for medical checks.

The rebel group, known as the FARC, had announced Monday's liberation on Feb. 26 in tandem with a halt in ransom kidnappings as a revenue source.

President Juan Manuel Santos called the release "a step in the right direction, a very important step" but cautioned against "pure speculation" that it augured an imminent peace dialogue.

He said he wants proof the FARC, which took up arms in 1964, is truly abandoning ransom kidnapping.

"When the government considers that sufficient conditions and guarantees exist to begin a process that brings an end to the conflict the country will know," he said.

It is not known how many ransom kidnap victims the FARC holds.

The head of Colombia's anti-kidnapping police puts the number at least six, including four Chinese oil workers seized last June. Other officials put the number closer to two dozen.

The citizens' watchdog group Fundacion Pais Libre maintains a list of at least 400 people the FARC kidnapped or has otherwise held against their will since 1996 who were never freed. It doesn't expunge a name from its records until the person is released or a body is found. Two serious goverment-FARC peace negotiations failed over the past three decades, and recent weeks have seen an upsurge in violence in the conflict.

Egypt Brotherhood candidate stirs unease

CAIRO (AP)—The Muslim Brotherhood's surprise decision to field a presidential candidate is stirring fears that the two biggest powers to emerge from the ouster of Hosni Mubarak—the Islamists and the military—are maneuvering to put in place a new rule in Egypt not much different from the old, authoritarian one.

If they succeed in divvying up the most important positions in government, the new leadership could be a blow to the hopes for an inclusive democracy that drove last year's uprising against Mubarak. Opponents of the Brotherhood and military warn that the maneuvering could lead to a repeat of the Mubarak-era domination by a single party of all executive and legislative powers—only now with an Islamist tinge.

The Brotherhood controls nearly 50 percent of parliament and dominates the constituent assembly that is in charge of writing Egypt's new constitution. Given its electoral strength, its candidate—Khairat el-Shater, the Brotherhood's deputy head but in reality its strongest figure—instantly leaps to front-runner status for the presidency in the May 23-24 election.

"We didn't have a revolution to end up with a dictatorship of the one party," said the head of the liberal Free Egyptians Party, Ahmed Said. "If el-Shater is president, will he rule in the name of the people or according to the orders of the Brotherhood?"

The decision to field the Brotherhood's strongman was a surprise even to many of its own members, some of whom have openly expressed disappointment that the group is breaking an earlier promise not to run. They worry the decision sacrifices the group's credibility for short-term gains.

AP

In this Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012 photo, Muslim Brotherhood nominated deputy leader Khayrat el-Shater speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Cairo, Egypt.

Liberals and secular leaders are fuming the group has abandoned its repeated promise to share power and fear it could monopolize rule, thwarting hopes for democracy. They worry eventually the Brotherhood may try to impose greater Islamic law restrictions and impose a new ruling elite of religious conservatives. Already, for example, a female Brotherhood lawmaker caused a stir by speaking out against the 4-year-old ban on female genital mutilation.

UN discusses creation of Gross National Happiness

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Should happiness figure in a nation's bottom line? And should the concept of Gross National Product be replaced by Gross National Happiness?

Bhutan's Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley told a high-level U.N. meeting Monday that it not only should but that it must if mankind is to avoid its current unsustainable and self-destructive course.

Bhutan, the tiny Himalayan nation which tops Asia in the United Nations' First World Happiness Report, convened the meeting seeking to develop a new economic model based on principles of happiness and well being.

"The GDP-lead development model that compels boundless growth on a planet with limited resources no longer makes economic sense. It is the cause of our irresponsible, immoral and self-destructive actions," Thinley said. "The purpose of development must be to create enabling conditions through public policy for the pursuit of the ultimate goal of happiness by all citizens."

The conference titled "Happiness and Well-being: Defining a New Economic Paradigm," brought together hundreds of representatives of government—including Costa Rican President Laura Chincilla—academics and other civic leaders to discuss the issue. All endorsed the importance of happiness, though not necessarily Bhutan's proposed index.

Jeffery Sachs, a prominent development economist at Columbia University in New York who edited the World Happiness Report along with John Helliwell and Richard Layard, said that happiness could be achieved independent of economic well-being as measured by GNP. The report was released to coincide with the conference.

Focus

AP

In this file image taken from Nov. 11, 2011 video footage released by Students For A Free Tibet via AP video purports to show Buddhist nun Palden Choetso engulfed in flames in her self-immolation protest against Chinese rule on a street in Tawu, Tibetan Ganzi prefecture, in China's Sichuan Province.

Wave of Tibet immolations among history's biggest

BEIJING (AP)—Dozens of Tibetans have set themselves on fire over the past year to protest Chinese rule, sometimes drinking kerosene to make the flames explode from within, in one of the biggest waves of political self-immolations in recent history.

But the stunning protests are going largely unnoticed in the wider world—due in part to a smothering Chinese security crackdown in the region that prevents journalists from covering them.

While a single fruit seller in Tunisia who lit himself on fire in December 2010 is credited with igniting the Arab Spring democracy movement, the Tibetan self-immolations have so far failed to prompt the changes the protesters demand: an end to government interference in their religion and a return of the exiled Dalai Lama.

Still, experts describe self-immolations as, historically, a powerful form of protest, and the ones in Tibet might yet lead to some broader uprising or stir greater international pressure on Beijing.

The Tibetan protesters have burned themselves in market places, main streets, military camps and other symbols of government authority in western China, mostly in a single remote county. Most of the protesters have been members of the Buddhist clergy. The latest were two monks, aged 21 and 22, on Friday.

"In scale, this is one of the biggest waves of self-immolation in the last six decades," said Oxford University sociologist Michael Biggs, who studies politically driven suicides. "Particularly that it's in one small area of China and in one small ethnic group, definitely, in terms of the intensity compared to the population, it seems to be much greater."

The pace of 32 self-immolations in little more than a year is more rapid than the suicide-by-fire protests that punctuated the Vietnam War and the pro-democracy movement in South Korea, experts say. It is surpassed only by the more than 100 students in India who burned themselves to protest a caste-based affirmative action proposal in 1990, Biggs said.

Shocking to most people's sensibilities, self-immolation is calculated, desperate and powerful, Biggs and other experts say. Its effects can be far-reaching, evoking sympathy in people unrelated to the cause and calling the like-minded to action.

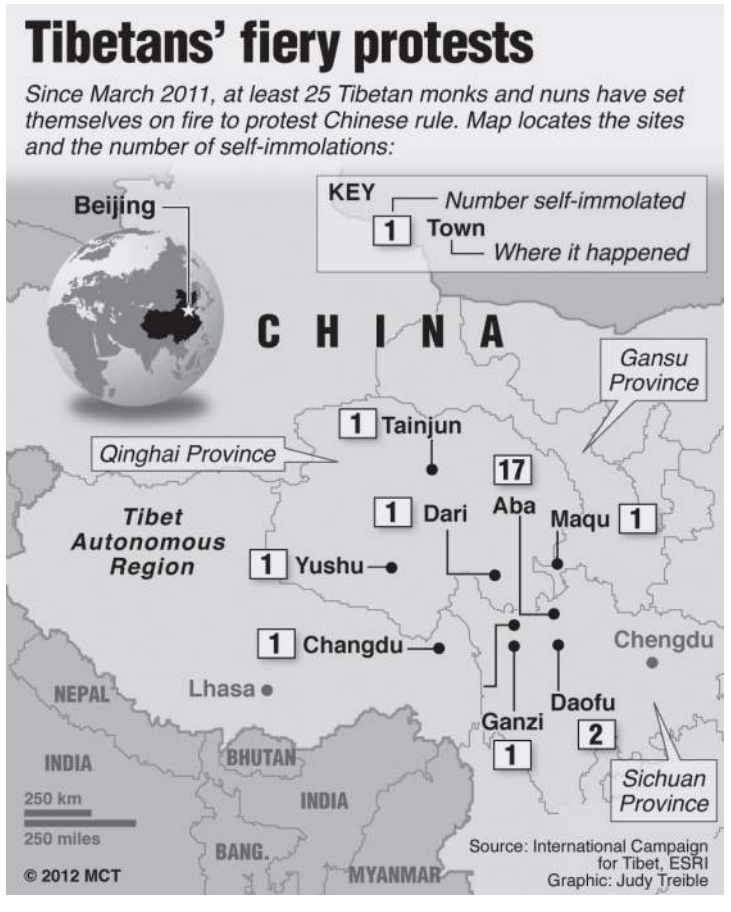
For Buddhists, as most Tibetans are, burning the body is seen as a selfless act of sacrifice, especially in defense of religion, and it carries a resonant history.

In the 6th century, the Chinese monk, Dazhi, used a red-hot iron and a knife to burn and then peel the flesh from an arm then removed the bones and set them on fire to protest limits on the Buddhist community ordered by a Sui dynasty emperor, said James Benn, author of "Burning for the Buddha," a book about Buddhist self-immolation.

Sometimes the distinction is blurry between political protest and suicide. In Afghanistan, for example, self-immolation is a common way for women to commit suicide. Many self-immolations have been reported in Tunisia since fruit seller Mohammed Bouazizi's act, but experts say most of them were likely suicides for personal reasons, not protests.

As a modern protest tactic, fiery suicide was effectively invented by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc, who sat in a lotus position on a busy Saigon street in 1963, had other monks pour gasoline on him, then struck a match. Reporters had been called beforehand.

The monk was protesting the South Vietnamese government's discrimination against Buddhists and his act touched off anti-war sentiments in America and undermined support for the U.S.-backed regime.



"When someone stands up to violence in such a courageous way, a force for change is released," Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh later wrote about Duc's immolation in a book about nonviolent social change. "Accepting the most extreme kind of pain, he lit a fire in the hearts of people around the world."

So far, the Tibetan protesters have failed to get what they want.

Each immolation has prompted authorities to heighten the security that has smothered the area since an uprising against Chinese rule in 2008. The security cordon has kept journalists out. Searches of Tibetans and Internet and mobile phone service suspensions keep the message from spreading.

Without the graphic images of a person ablaze, the immolations have yet to produce an iconic symbol the world can latch onto.

Also, China's emergence as the world's second-largest economy and its growing diplomatic clout make it less likely that foreign governments throw any substantial weight for the Tibetan cause.

"There's a real sense that Thich Quang Duc and the Buddhist monks who set themselves on fire in Saigon in 1963 were able to change American foreign policy and therefore bring down the government in South Vietnam," Biggs said. "But of course, there's no leverage that anybody in the West has over China that is comparable."

The protests are unlikely to sway a Chinese population that has come to associate the tactic with the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement after five of its members set themselves on fire on Tiananmen Square in 2001. China used the event—in which a woman and her 12-year-old daughter died—to support its claim that Falun Gong is an "evil cult" and justify a brutal crackdown.

The Chinese public, in any case, has little sympathy for Tibetan appeals. Many in the Han Chinese majority adhere to the government's position that Tibetan protesters want to split Tibet from China.

Still, in the Tibetan areas, the immolations have often been followed by mass demonstrations—underscoring the power the protest has in galvanizing a community.

In January, a 42-year-old monk named Sopa in Qinghai province drank kerosene and threw it over his body before setting himself alight. Radio Free Asia quoted a source as saying his "body exploded in pieces" before police took it away. Residents reportedly smashed the windows and doors of a local police station to get the body back, then paraded it through the streets in protest.

"Self-immolation is an extraordinarily effective psychological tactic," said John Horgan, a terrorism expert at Pennsylvania State University who is leading a project to compile a database of self-immolations in the world.

"Because self-immolation doesn't result in the killing of innocent bystanders, it is often characterized as an extremely noble gesture, borne out of frustration and helplessness," Horgan said.

Self-immolations don't have the same negative associations as suicide bombings, but tend to generate the same amount of publicity, Horgan said.

"When there's a really pervasive frustration and all options are used and not working, then self-immolation as a tactic or protest is taken seriously," said Ben Park, a Pennsylvania State University expert on self-immolations in South Korea between 1971 and 1993.

Park said around 70 people, many of them young rural migrants in the country's cities, set themselves on fire in protest against authoritarian rule in Korea over those two decades. "They don't want to die. They prefer living to death but they feel that they have to do it."

Campus Life

Schools across the country bring iPads to the classroom

By CURTIS TATE
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MCT
Camilla Gagliolo watches over as children in Mr. William Donovan's fourth grade class study a Virginia history lesson on iPads at Jamestown Elementary School in Arlington, Virginia, March 13, 2012.

ARLINGTON, Va.—On a warm spring morning, two first-grade boys enter the computer lab at Jamestown Elementary, a traditional-looking red-brick neighborhood school that's educated generations of students.

The first-graders take a black cart, big enough that they both could fit in it, and push it down the hall to their classroom. It contains an Apple iPad for every student in their class.

This school is anything but old school.

Jamestown, part of the 21,000-student Arlington Public Schools, is on the leading edge of what many educators describe as the classroom edition of the digital revolution.

"Kids are not only able to access material but use a number of tools to construct learning in a completely different way from what they've seen before," said Camilla Gagliolo, the instructional technology coordinator for Arlington Public Schools.

While this revolution is far from complete amid concerns about its cost and effectiveness, schools and textbook publishers say it's opened up a new chapter in education, changing the way students interact with teachers and with one another.

"Teachers are having to rethink their classroom," said Becky Keith, a technology integration specialist at Woodford County Public Schools in Kentucky. "The teachers who are embracing it are having great success."

Teachers in digital classrooms have become learning coaches, moving around the room and giving students more one-on-one instruction. Educators who have embraced this approach said it better prepares students for the interactive environments they'll encounter in their college and professional lives.

"In the past, the teacher was the owner of the knowledge," said Richard Jean, the principal of Archbishop McCarthy High School, a Roman Catholic school in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. "A year ago, if a child wanted to tape a lecture, he couldn't."

From kindergarten through 12th grade, students in more than 2,000 school districts across the country are learning with electronic devices that until recently they were discouraged from using in class.

"We asked them to turn off all electronics when they came to school," Jean said. Now, "we have a tool they can use for everything."

Students can use tablets—whether from Apple or rival brands—to take notes, submit assignments and engage in group discussions with teachers or other students. They can shoot and edit movies, produce podcasts and record lectures. They also can look up information right at their desks, saving a trip to the computer lab or the library. They're also allowing teachers to jettison traditional textbooks.

"I do not really use the textbook at all," said Jessica Basanta, who teaches Spanish at Woodford County High School in Versailles, Ky. "Sometimes I'll pull a few things from textbooks."

Woodford County is among hundreds of school districts across the country to buy into tablets as the future of classroom instruction. It purchased iPads for all 1,250 of its high school students last fall at a cost of $785,000. It plans to buy a new set for each incoming class and offer students the option of buying them at a steep discount when they graduate.

"We feel like we have a model in place to sustain this for many years to come," said Scott Hawkins, the district's superintendent.

But not every district can afford the money that Woodford spent on the iPads, cases and management software for one high school. Hawkins said it cost another $170,000 to build a wireless network, another important requirement beyond the outlay for the tablets themselves.

And not every parent can afford to chip in. The parents of Archbishop McCarthy's approximately 1,500 students pay a $25 monthly technology fee on top of regular tuition, which runs about $10,000 a year.

Arlington Public Schools in Virginia allocates $360,000 a year over a four-year cycle to replace computers at its 37 schools. Frank Bellavia, a district spokesman, said principals at schools that are due for upgrades can decide whether they want tablets or laptops, or a mixture of both.

Schools also can receive state and federal funding for classroom technology, but the funds aren't unlimited.

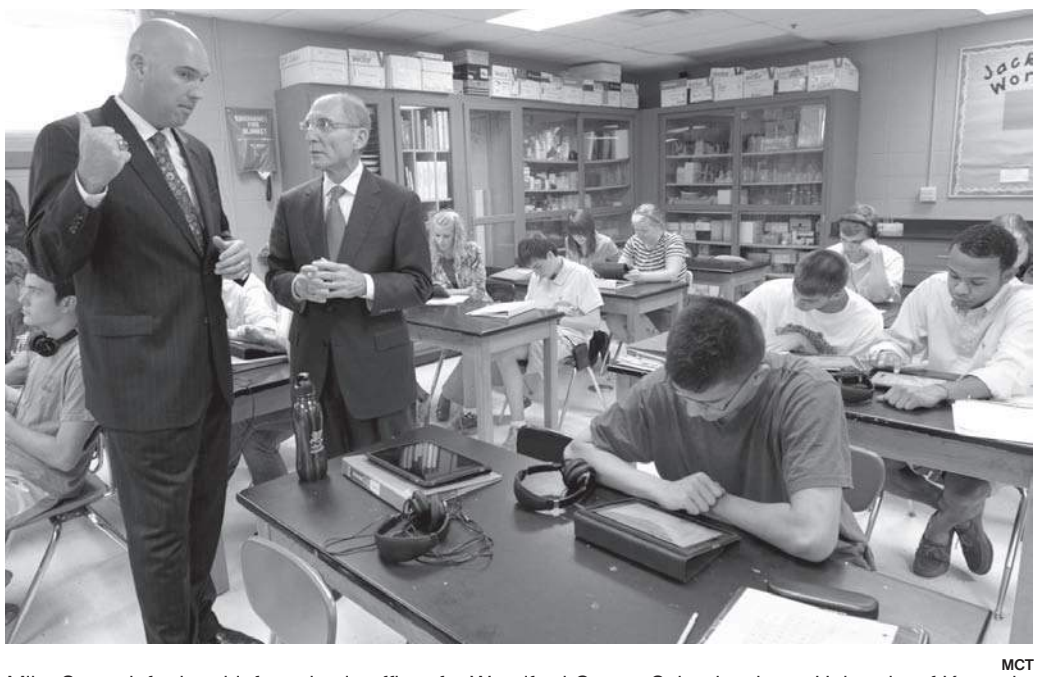
"I would check my wallet if anyone said this is the solution and you have to do it tomorrow or your schools will fail," said Mark Warschauer, an education professor at the University of California, Irvine.

Warschauer said there is no evidence yet that such devices improve learning.

"I'm a big enthusiast of technology in education, but I'm very wary of notions of silver bullet or magic bullet or game changer," Warschauer said. "An iPad is a different way to deliver content. It has some advantages, and it has some disadvantages."

Education experts who embrace the technology acknowledge the hurdles.

"The money itself is extremely daunting," said Justin Bathon, an assistant professor of education at the University of Kentucky. "The infrastructure is hard to build."



MCT
Mike Stacy, left, the chief academic officer for Woodford County Schools, shows University of Kentucky president Eli Capilouto an AP physics class using iPads at Woodford County High School in Versailles, Kentucky on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011.

The U.S. education system is highly decentralized, meaning that new concepts aren't adopted uniformly. It also was built for another era.

"We built schools for an industrial economy, and we did spectacularly good at it," Bathon said. "It made us the country we are today."

In a competitive global economy, Bathon said, it's time for a new model. South Korea had planned to convert every classroom to digital textbooks by 2015. However, this approach worries some educators who think students spend too much time on digital devices, so in a shift, the country won't eliminate printed textbooks entirely.

In William Donovan's fourth-grade class at Arlington's Jamestown Elementary School, it almost appears that the printed history textbook has become history.

On a recent day, Donovan's students are engrossed in a lesson on Virginia history, scrolling through an electronic textbook on their iPads. Meanwhile, a faded set of World Book encyclopedias—an old staple of grade school research—occupies a nearby shelf.

"There's a lot of discussion about when we won't buy textbooks anymore," Donovan said. "Everything we do is interactive."

Rather than fighting the digital trend the way other traditional content providers did, the nation's textbook publishers have embraced it.

"I don't see any resistance at all," said Jay Diskey, the executive director of the school division of the Association of American Publishers. "We're seeing education publishers of all sizes going in this direction, because there is a great deal of demand."

McGraw-Hill Education, one of the largest, is making "significant investments" in digital textbooks, said Lisa O'Masta, a vice president of marketing. She said the company offers schools both printed books and digital ones or a combination of both.

"Our hope is we help our districts in that digital transition," she said. "In many cases, school districts aren't ready yet. We try to develop programs for where they are today."

While Apple dominates the market for classroom technology, much as it did in the 1980s, other companies are offering the devices based on Google's Android operating system, and the competition could bring down prices for schools.

A traditional textbook may cost $75, and a district would have to keep it for five to seven years, and the material quickly becomes dated. Now schools can download digital textbooks for as little as $15 a student and do so more frequently, keeping the information current.

"It is very early with the digital textbooks, but I do believe over the long haul we will save some money over the printed text," Hawkins said.

The students in Donovan's fourth-grade class aren't complaining.

"When my dad was a kid, it was a dream," Isabella Check, 9, said about using a high-tech device in class.

Others appreciate that they don't have to lug around a bag full of heavy books.

"I live right up the hill, so it's a pain," said Perry Gibbs, 10.

At Woodford County High School in Kentucky, students are even teaching their teachers. Andy Smith, a 39-year-old history teacher and by his own admission "not a digital native," said it's fine by him that the students have become innovators.

"There seems to be an attitude that we're all in this together," Smith said. "They've kind of taken ownership of their side of it."

Students staff the school's help desk. Zachary Rankin, a senior, is always in demand.

"A lot of teachers who stop me in the hallway say, 'Hey, can you help me?' " he said.

Daniel James, another senior who works on the help desk, said the devices are helping teachers live in the same world as their students.

"It's bridging a gap between teens and society," he said.

Life & Style

Gray hair's in fashion, but what about at work?

NEW YORK (AP)—Jeanne Thompson began going gray at 23. She colored her hair for years as she worked her way into management at a large Boston-area financial services company, then gave up the dye for good about a year ago.

The earth didn't shake, and the 44-year-old Thompson was promoted to top management the following year.

She is among a new type of gray panther, a woman who aspires to do well and get ahead on the job while happily maintaining a full head of gray.

"Women put pressure on themselves to color," the Exeter, N.H., woman said. "It's a bold statement to be gray because it's saying, 'You know what? I did let my hair go, but I'm not letting myself go.' People take me more seriously now. I never apologize for the gray hair."

But not everyone finds it so easy.

Laws, of course, exist to ward off discrimination in the workplace, yet legions of men and women have no interest in letting their gray fly. Not now, when the struggling economy has produced a stampede of hungry young job-seekers.

But gray heads have been popping up on runways and red carpets, on models and young celebrities for months. There's Lady Gaga and Kelly Osbourne—via dye—and Hollywood royalty like Helen Mirren, the Oscar-winning British actress.

Christine Lagarde, the International Monetary Fund chief, is one of the most powerful women in the world, and she keeps her hair gray. So does Essie Weingarten, founder and now creative director of the nail polish company Essie Cosmetics.

For regular working women, it's a trickier issue.

"I don't think a woman in the workplace is going to follow that trend," David Scher, a civil rights attorney in Washington, said with a laugh. "I think women in the workplace are highly pressured to look young. If I were an older working person, the last thing I would do is go gray."

Yes, he's a dude, and at 44 he has virtually no salt in his hair, but he wasn't alone in issuing a warning against workplace gray for women.

"While the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 was created to protect employees 40 years of age and older, some men and women may still encounter ageism in the workplace," said Stephanie Martinez Kluga, a manager for Insperity, a Houston-based company that provides human resources services to small and medium-size businesses.

"The long-standing perception that men with gray hair are experienced and women with gray hair are simply old may still be an issue that affects employees in workplaces across the U.S.," she said.

Some of today's new gray panthers also offer strong words of caution about exactly how well those anti-discrimination laws work.

Anne Kreamer is gray and proud, but she didn't unleash the color until she left her day job to become self-employed. She dedicates an entire chapter of her 2007 book "Going Gray" to workplace issues.

"We only fool ourselves about how young we look with our dyed hair," said the Harvard-educated Kreamer, a former Nickelodeon executive who helped launch the satirical magazine Spy before writing the book exploring her journey to silver.

When it comes to gray on the job, Kreamer said, context counts. The color might be easier in academia over high-tech, for instance, and in Minneapolis over Los Angeles. Job description and your rung on the ladder might also be in play: chief financial officer versus a lowlier, more creative and therefore more gray-tolerant position like assistant talent agent, for example.

Kreamer dubbed the largely unspoken phenomenon "hair-colorism."

In 1950, 7 percent of women dyed their hair, she said. Today, it's closer to 95 percent or more, depending on geographic location. In the '60s, easy, affordable hair dye in a box hit store shelves, changing the follicle landscape for good.

"When women were going to work, it was like they could reinvent themselves and say, 'I'm no house frau anymore.' Hair dye got kind of linked in there and we never looked back," said Kreamer, who went prematurely gray and colored for 25 years. "It's still very complicated."

AP

In this undated image released by Conor Doherty, Jeanne Thompson, a Boston-based finance executive, is shown.

Sandra Rawline, 52, in Houston knows how complicated it can be.

A trial is scheduled for June in her federal lawsuit accusing her boss at Capital Title of Texas of ordering her to dye her gray hair in 2009, when her office moved to a swankier part of town. The suit accuses him of instructing her to wear "younger, fancier suits" and lots of jewelry, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Rawline, an escrow officer and branch manager, wouldn't comment for this story. The newspaper said her superior called her lawsuit preposterous.

The reason we know about Rawline and Lagarde and Weingarten and Mirren and—let's throw in NBC Universal exec Lauren Zalaznick—is that their gray strands stand out against a sea of, well, not gray.

Weingarten, 62, began going gray at 18 and said she colored for years. She gave it up about 20 years ago.

"People would say, 'Are you crazy? You have to color your hair,'" she said. "I had my own business. I was an entrepreneur. I could do whatever I wanted, but the truth is I know a lot of women who are petrified to show gray hair because it means they're maturing."

The new "gray movement" doesn't keep tabs on membership, but blogs like Terri Holley's Going Gray are proliferating, along with pro-gray Facebook fan pages and Twitter feeds.

"Society has boxed in women on what's considered to be beautiful, and this defies how we're supposed to look," Holley said. "People say, 'I'm so glad I found you. I'm so glad we're having this conversation.'"

Dana King, 53, started going gray in her 20s, began dyeing in her 30s and went to work for San Francisco's KPIX in 1997, rising to news anchor. In January 2010, she first approached her general manager, a man whom she had known for a decade, about her giving up the dye.

"He didn't like the idea at all and he asked me not to do it," King said. Soon after, she did it anyway, with the comfort of a no-cut contract good to May 2013.

"It got down to the point where I was dyeing it every two to three weeks. I just decided, 'I'm not doing this anymore.' I felt like I had sold my soul and betrayed myself," she said.

After sharing her hair story on-air, King was deluged with emails from viewers, including many women who colored and some who worried she had fallen ill. "The response was overwhelmingly positive," King said. "They said it was a relief for them, that they could see someone that made it OK to be gray."

King knows her road to gray wouldn't have gone so well had she been a TV news star elsewhere.

"I work in a youth-oriented industry and I'm not an idiot," she said. "This is not Miami. This is not Los Angeles. I would have been fired had I worked in some other markets. I can't get a job anywhere else, I don't think. I have no illusions about what I've done and I'm good with that."

Study finds some early breast cancer overdiagnosed

NEW YORK (AP)—For years, women have been urged to get screened for breast cancer because the earlier it's found, the better. Now researchers are reporting more evidence suggesting that's not always the case.

A study in Norway estimates that between 15 and 25 percent of breast cancers found by mammograms wouldn't have caused any problems during a woman's lifetime, but these tumors were being treated anyway. Once detected, early tumors are surgically removed and sometimes treated with radiation or chemotherapy because there's no certain way to figure out which ones may be dangerous and which are harmless.

"When you look for cancer early and you look really hard, you find forms that are ultimately never going to bother the patient," said Dr. H. Gilbert Welch of the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, who was not part of the research. "It's a side effect of early diagnosis."

The study is the latest to explore overdiagnosis from routine mammograms—finding tumors that grow so slowly or not at all and that would not have caused symptoms or death. Previous estimates of the problem have varied.

The researchers took advantage of the staggered decade-long introduction of a screening program in Norway, starting in 1996. That allowed them to compare the number of breast cancers in counties where screening was offered with those in areas that didn't yet have the program. Their analysis also included a decade before mammograms were offered.

They estimated that for every 2,500 women offered screening, one death from breast cancer will be prevented but six to 10 women will be overdiagnosed and treated.

Study leader Dr. Mette Kalager and other experts said women need to be better informed about the possibility that mammograms can pick up cancers that will never be life-threatening when they consider getting screened. The dilemma is that doctors don't have a good way of telling which won't be dangerous.

"Once you've decided to undergo mammography screening, you also have to deal with the consequences that you might be overdiagnosed," said Kalager, a breast surgeon at Norway's Telemark Hospital and a visiting scientist at Harvard School of Public Health. "By then, I think, it's too late. You have to get treated."

Kalager and her colleagues looked only at invasive breast cancer. The study did not include DCIS, or ductal carcinoma in situ—an earlier stage cancer confined to a milk duct.

Under the Norway program, screening was offered every two years to women ages 50 to 69.

Researchers analyzed nearly 40,000 breast cancer cases, including 7,793 that were detected after routine screening began. They estimated that between 1,169 and 1,948 of those women were overdiagnosed and got treatment they didn't need.

Their findings appear in Tuesday's Annals of Internal Medicine.

The problem of overdiagnosis has been long recognized with prostate cancer. Darthmouth's Welch said it's also a problem in thyroid and lung cancer, a childhood tumor called neuroblastoma and even melanoma. He considers breast cancer screening a close call.

"The truth is that we've exaggerated the benefits of screening and we've ignored the harms," he said. "I think we're headed to a place where we realize we need to give women a more balanced message: Mammography helps some people but it leads others to be treated unnecessarily."

An editorial published with the study said overdiagnosis probably occurs more often in the United States because American women often start annual screening at an earlier age and radiologists in the U.S. are more likely to report suspicious findings than those in Europe.

Radiologists could help by raising the threshold for noting abnormalities, wrote Dr. Joann Elmore of the University of Washington School of Medicine and Dr. Suzanne Fletcher of Harvard Medical School.

A "watch-and-wait" approach has been suggested instead of an immediate biopsy, but the editorial writers acknowledge that could be a "tough sell" for some women and radiologists alike.

They said most women aren't aware of the possibility of overdiagnosis.

"We have an ethical responsibility to alert women to this phenomenon," they wrote.

Madonna's promises in Malawi turn sour

By RAPHAEL TENTHANI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2009 file photo, US pop star Madonna, second from left, cuts the ribbon at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Raising Malawi Academy for Girls in Lilongwe, Malawi.

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—Celebrity promises have turned to disappointment, finger-pointing and lawsuits in Malawi, an impoverished and troubled southern African country where Madonna has drastically scaled back charity efforts.

Some Malawi officials say Madonna's changes in plans have taken them by surprise, but Madonna's camp says the government has been informed and involved in the new agenda.

In 2009, Education Minister George Chaponda helped Madonna break ground for a $15 million academy for girls. Earlier this year, Madonna's Raising Malawi foundation announced that instead of building the academy, it is providing $300,000 to the non-governmental organization buildOn, which has years of experience in Malawi, to develop 10 schools. They'll serve about 1,000 boys and girls in the southern African nation of 15 million that is among the poorest in the world.

"We haven't been officially approached" about the change, Chaponda complained recently. "We are just reading from the media but we haven't been told anything."

Ministry of Education officials said a memorandum of understanding that Raising Malawi, founded in 2006, signed with the Malawi government for the academy project has a clause that binds either party to notify and get the other's agreement should it want to alter any aspect of the project.

John Bisika, the top bureaucrat in the education department, said the Malawi government was disappointed.

"We need to know what's happening. She can't just say: 'I'm building schools here.' We need to be consulted in order to work out where schools are needed based on our data," he said. "Let's do it properly."

But Trevor Neilson, who is helping to direct Madonna's school project in Malawi as a partner of the Global Philanthropy Group, said allegations the government was being left out of Madonna's planning are "absolutely not true."

"Our partnership with buildOn received the explicit approval from the education ministry. We had ... six government officials who attended the contract signing along with about 50 or so members of the community," he said.

Neilson gave The Associated Press a copy of a Jan. 31 letter sent to Chaponda. Days earlier, Madonna had released a public statement about her new plans.

Neilson called himself Madonna's adviser in his letter to Chaponda and referred to Raising Malawi having "changed course" on the academy. Neilson stressed Madonna remained committed to helping children in the country, taking a new "community based approach" by working with buildOn.

He added: "Raising Malawi would like to graciously return the land in Chinkhota granted to us by the government for the original Raising Malawi Academy for Girls project."

Headman Binson Chinkhota had a tough time convincing villagers of the importance of Madonna's academy project. Now, he feels let down.

"My people reluctantly gave up their land because I convinced them the project was beneficial not only because our girls would get world-class education but also because some of the villagers would get piecework," said the chief whose subjects mainly survive on subsistence agriculture and day labor in the city of Lilongwe, some 25 kilometers (15 miles) away. "Now the land is just lying idle."

A leading child care group also expressed disappointment in Madonna and said its funding by Raising Malawi stopped suddenly and without explanation.

"We are really struggling—they were our main funders. In fact, we increased the children we feed daily because of them," said Lucy Chapomba, administrator at Consol Homes, a group that runs projects for orphans and vulnerable children in central Malawi.

Neilson said Raising Malawi was funding Consol Homes through the middle of this year, but that Consol Homes was not fulfilling its financial reporting obligations and there were "major concerns" about the performance of its management team.

"So, as of now, we're not going to be continuing that funding unless they can show us that the money will be well used," Neilson said. "Raising Malawi does not just hand out money to anyone and everyone that wants it. We have a clear grant making process and performance metrics associated with these grants. So people in Malawi might not like that we measure their performance but that is the way that Raising Malawi is now run."

Neilson said that since 2007, Raising Malawi has invested over $7 million, including $1 million for Consol Homes, in programs to support orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi.

Anjimile Ntila-Oponyo, a Harvard-trained teacher Madonna poached from the United Nations Development Project to head her Malawi project, is locked in a legal battle over unpaid wages. Ntila-Oponyo is gagged by a confidentiality clause she signed with the singer, and refused to discuss the issue with the AP.

Malawi's relations with foreign donors have been strained by accusations President Bingu wa Mutharika is authoritarian and responsible for human rights abuses. Earlier this month, a U.S. aid agency that rewards good governance suspended $350 million worth of assistance to Malawi.

Madonna says her new approach in Malawi will serve twice as many children as an original plan that had led some to draw parallels to the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls the talk show host and entrepreneur started in neighboring South Africa in 2007. Winfrey, who spent $40 million on her campus, recently acknowledged hers "is not a sustainable model for most people in most countries."

Couric, Palin to face off again on morning shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly four years after they clashed in a memorable TV interview, Sarah Palin and Katie Couric face off again—this time in a morning-show battle royale.

Viewers will cast their votes with their clickers Tuesday.

If you're a Couric fan who misses those bygone mornings on the "Today" show, then click to "Good Morning America," where Couric, now an ABC star, is subbing all week for co-host Robin Roberts.

But maybe you love the "mama grizzly" panache of Sarah Palin. And maybe you're still miffed by how Couric, then anchoring the "CBS Evening News," went to town on Palin during the 2008 presidential race. Then tune into NBC's "Today," where, during the 8 a.m. (EDT) hour, Palin will serve as a guest host at Couric's old haunt. (Take that, Katie!)

Welcoming the former Alaska governor to Studio 1A is the "Today" show's brashest countermove after "GMA," the scrappy ratings runner-up, announced Couric's fill-in role last week.

On Monday's show, the "Today" crew checked in by phone with Palin, who, reporting from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, declared, "We're making that trek cross-country to see y'all and say hi to your good viewers."

"What are you doing to prepare—are you reading some newspapers?" joked host Matt Lauer. He was alluding to an embarrassing moment from the Couric interview, when Palin couldn't name any newspapers she regularly read, instead replying that she read "all of them, any of them that have been in front of me over all these years."

AP

NBC's "Today" show is bringing Sarah Palin, left, on board as a co-host—for one morning, this Tuesday.

"That's a fine how-do-you-do! Here we go!" Palin laughed on Monday. But, turning serious, she added, "I appreciate NBC's boldness in having me on. Doesn't it kind of reflect some of that diversity of opinion that you espouse?"

"Or desperation," cracked former host Meredith Vieira, who was making a surprise appearance.

But "Today" isn't exactly desperate. Unrelenting is more like it, especially as "GMA" whittles away at the ratings gap that has kept "Today" on top every week since December 1995. The most recent Nielsen report found "GMA" had only 137,000 fewer viewers than "Today" (an average of 4.84 million to 4.98 million), the closest the two shows have been since 2008.

Clearly, "Today" isn't going to sacrifice its winning streak without a fight.

The guest turn by Palin, who, before she entered politics worked briefly as a local TV sportscaster, was announced over the weekend on NBC's website. The network promised she would "reveal a different side" than viewers have seen before. During the 7 a.m. hour, she will also submit to an interview.

But "Today" has other viewer-luring tricks up its sleeve.

Announced guests this week include reality stars Giuliana and Bill Rancic (who appeared on Monday) and Kim Kardashian, as well as "Octomom" Nadya Suleman, Tori Spelling and over-the-top pop singer Nicki Minaj, who will perform live.

NBC teased that an undisclosed "Today" show "legend" would make a return visit on Monday's show. The legend turned out to be Vieira, who only exited last June. (She was back to announce she will re-join "Today" in London for the Summer Olympics.)

As if that weren't enough excitement, NBC broke the news in a Twitter posting that Tuesday's show would also include what it termed "a big NBC announcement" by ubiquitous TV personality Ryan Seacrest.

But all of this pales in comparison to the main event: Tuesday's morning-show showdown between Palin and Couric.

The original bout in October 2008 was a clear win for Couric, no matter if you thought she conducted a fair interview for which Palin was dismally underprepared or if you believe she came at Palin with a fusillade of unfair "gotcha" questions.

What will happen Tuesday?

Might either Palin or Couric make a reference, veiled or barbed, to the other? Which of them will score the higher ratings for this head-to-head hour? Will "Today" show devotees with an aversion to Palin turn to "GMA" to register their protest?

And will some viewers skip this rematch, if that's what it is, altogether? An available alternative, third-place rival "CBS This Morning," will likely be more focused on news than stunts.

THE BREAKDOWN
Palin vs. Couric

NEW YORK (AP)—While it's not quite Ali vs. Frazier, Tuesday's faceoff between Katie Couric and Sarah Palin on opposing morning shows has some viewers wishing for a war of words. Here's a look at how the pair measures up.

Career Highlight:

Couric: Her 15-year run as queen of the morning on the "Today" show.

Sarah Palin: Her electrifying speech at the 2008 Republican National Convention marking the national debut of a political powerhouse.

Career Lowlight:

Couric: Her rocky tenure as the first solo female anchor of the "CBS Evening News."

Palin: Her rocky interview with Couric in fall 2008.

Signature Features:

Couric: Legs and biceps.

Palin: Stylish specs, scarlet blazers.

Linked Professionally With:

Couric: Matt Lauer, her co-host on "Today."

Palin: John McCain, her 2008 GOP running mate.

Juicy Tell-Alls:

Couric: "Katie: The Real Story" (2007), Edward Klein.

Palin: "The Rogue: Searching for the Real Sarah Palin" (2011), Joe McGinniss.

Opposing Camps:

Couric: ABC's Times Square Studio.

Palin: NBC's Studio 1A, Rockefeller Center.

Kutcher to play Steve Jobs in biopic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He's already a titan of social media, so it only makes sense that Ashton Kutcher would play the late Apple founder Steve Jobs in an upcoming biography.

Kutcher's publicist confirmed Tuesday that the independent film "Jobs" will begin production in May while he's on hiatus from the CBS sitcom "Two and a Half Men." Variety first reported the casting news.

The 34-year-old actor, who has over 10 million Twitter followers, will portray Jobs through his rise from hippie to hugely revered technological entrepreneur as the co-founder of Apple. Jobs died last October after a long battle with cancer.

Sex change might not bar wannabe beauty queen

The Miss Universe Organization may reverse an earlier decision and allow a transgender woman to enter the Miss Universe Canada pageant.

Jenna Talackova, 23, was born male, leading organizers to disqualify her last month as a finalist in the 61st Miss Universe Canada pageant in May.

The rules of the contest run by Donald Trump's New York City-based organization say entrants must be "naturally born" females. The woman underwent a sex change four years ago.

But shortly after Talackova announced a news conference in Los Angeles for Tuesday the Miss Universe Organization said in a statement on Monday that Talackova can compete "provided she meets the legal gender recognition requirements of Canada, and the standards established by other international competitions." ***(AP)***

AP

In this image provided by Miss International Queen via YouTube, Jenna Talackova, of Vancouver, British Columbia, speaks during a video interview at the 2010 Miss International Queen Competition in Thailand.

Oprah Winfrey still bullish on her cable network

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says she still has faith in her troubled cable network.

Appearing Monday on "CBS This Morning," Winfrey told the show's co-host—and her best friend—Gayle King that she believes the Oprah Winfrey Network will fulfill its mission of transforming viewers' lives.

But if viewers don't respond, Winfrey says: "I will move on to the next thing."

OWN has struggled to build an audience since its launch in January 2011.

Says Winfrey: "I'll always be OK."

Meanwhile, her longtime boyfriend, Stedman Graham, was on NBC's "Today" show promoting his new book, "Identity: Your Passport to Success."

Noting the couple's clashing TV appearances, host Matt Lauer asked Graham if they share a competitive streak. He replied that he only wants the best for her.

AP

In this image released by CBS, Oprah Winfrey, left, appears on "CBS This Morning," with co-hosts Gayle King and Charlie Rose, right, Monday, April 2, 2012 in New York.

Beverly Hills psychiatrist has license suspended

LOS ANGELES (AP)—State medical board officials say a Beverly Hills psychiatrist who treated Anna Nicole Smith in the days before her death has had her license suspended for a criminal conviction involving the Playboy Playmate

The March 30 decision by the Medical Board of California did not name any patients in the case against Dr. Khristine Eroshevich, but the filing listed the court number of the Smith case.

Eroshevich's license was revoked, but the revocation was stayed.

Instead, Eroshevich's license will be suspended for 90 days and she will be placed on five years of probation by the state licensing agency for wrongly prescribing opiates and other misconduct.

Eroshevich was initially convicted of two felonies in the drug trial involving the treatment of Smith. One was later thrown out and the other was reduced to a misdemeanor.

Actor Alec Baldwin engaged to marry Hilaria Thomas

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin is giving marriage another shot. The actor popped the question over the weekend to his 28-year-old yoga instructor girlfriend, Hilaria Thomas. They began dating last year.

His publicist Matthew Hiltzik made the engagement announcement over Twitter.

Baldwin, who once starred in a film called "The Marrying Man," turns 54 on Tuesday and an engagement, says Hiltzik, is a "great way to celebrate!"

Baldwin was previously married to Kim Basinger. They have a daughter together named Ireland. He published a book in 2008 called "A Promise to Ourselves" about his personal experience dealing with divorce and his battle with Basinger over custody of their daughter.

AP

In this Oct. 26, 2011 file photo, actor Alec Baldwin, left, and Hilaria Thomas attend the Elton John AIDS Foundation 10th Annual Enduring Vision Benefit in New York.

Senior's refusal to 'sext' results in loss of friend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Two years ago, when I was in 10th grade, I had a best friend, "Ben." We talked all the time, shared secrets and always hung out together. I never regarded him as someone I'd like to date, so I never took his attention very seriously.

That summer, he texted me and asked me to send him a picture of my breasts. When I said no, he became pushy. I told him I didn't know what he was going to do with the picture, and I didn't want to get in trouble. He was upset that I didn't "trust" him. I tried to explain that I couldn't assume he wouldn't do anything to hurt me. We didn't talk the rest of the summer.

The following year we had a chemistry class together, and Ben acted like he didn't know me. He deleted my phone number and dropped me as a friend on Facebook. Now, in our final year of high school, he's in another class with me. He still won't acknowledge me and is always flirting with my best friend.

I have cried so much over Ben. I miss him a lot. I don't understand why he's treating me this way. What did I do that was so awful? Is something wrong with me?

BEWILDERED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR BEWILDERED: You did nothing wrong. You considered Ben to be a friend, and I assume that you aren't in the habit of showing your male friends your breasts. It seems only logical that you wouldn't send a picture that could wind up heaven knows where.

Ben is acting this way because he is trying to punish you for not giving him what he wanted. He's flirting with your friend to hurt you and/or make you jealous. These are not the actions of a friend, and the sooner you accept it, the better off you will be. Ben strikes me as immature and a user, so be glad you didn't do what he wanted. It was good common sense.

DEAR ABBY: Regarding money and adult children, should a parent help all children equally if they are financially able to? Or should a parent offer help only to the children in need (medical expenses, kid in college, new washing machine, etc.)? If one child has a high-paying job, does he/she deserve any less from a parent in the end?

WONDERING

DEAR WONDERING: Before deciding how to divide your assets, first discuss this with an attorney who specializes in wills, trusts and estate planning. From my perspective, if you leave an equal amount to each of your heirs, it will prevent hurt feelings and resentment among them after you are gone. Monies given before your death to one of your children should be tallied and deducted from the amount he or she is allotted in your will—with an explanation of the reason why it is less.

DEAR ABBY: I am torn between two important people in my life. My best friend and my husband graduate this year on the same day, one at 9 a.m., the other at 10 a.m., at two different colleges an hour and a half apart.

My friend says that because I was able to attend my husband's associate and bachelor degree graduations, I should attend her ceremony because I have never seen her graduate. However, I feel my husband's having earned his master's degree is a huge accomplishment, and that I should attend his graduation. What do you think, Abby?

UNDECIDED IN ARKANSAS

DEAR UNDECIDED: I think you should follow your instincts, because they are exactly right. During your lifetime you will have many friends, but let's hope only one husband.

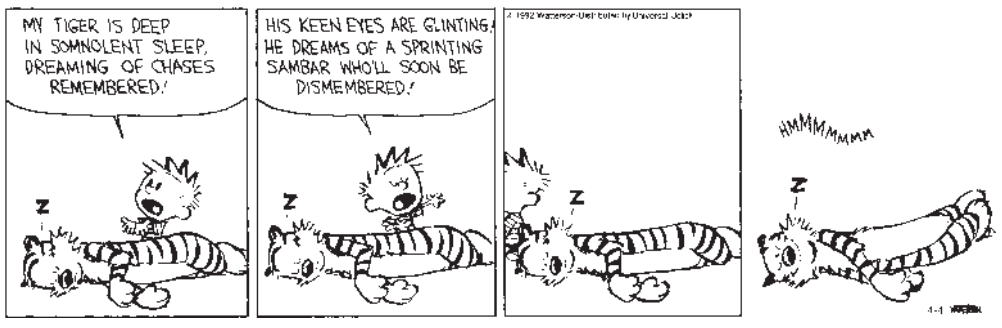
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY TIGER IS DEEP IN SOMNOLENT SLEEP, DREAMING OF CHASES REMEMBERED.
HIS KEEN EYES ARE GLINTING. HE DREAMS OF A SPRINTING SAMBAR WHO'LL SOON BE DISMEMBERED.
HMMMMMMM
Z

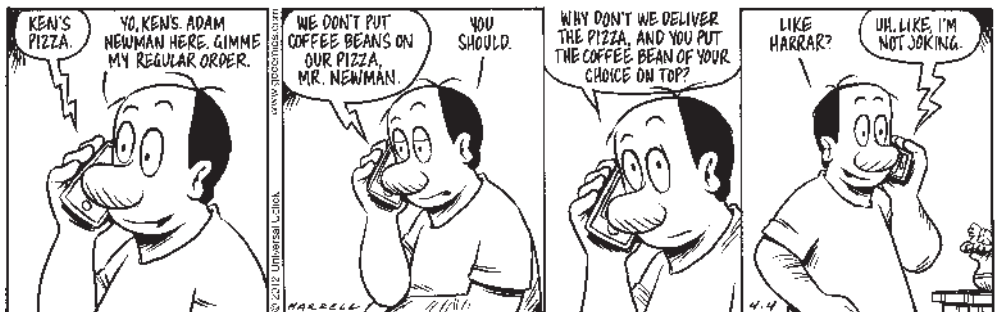
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HEY!
SOME OF US LIKE TO CLIMB THAT TREE!
JIM DAVIS 4-4
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
©2012 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


KEN'S PIZZA.
YO, KEN'S. ADAM NEWMAN HERE. GIMME MY REGULAR ORDER.
WE DON'T PUT COFFEE BEANS ON OUR PIZZA, MR. NEWMAN.
YOU SHOULD.
WHY DON'T WE DELIVER THE PIZZA, AND YOU PUT THE COFFEE BEAN OF YOUR CHOICE ON TOP?
LIKE HARRAR?
UH. LIKE, I'M NOT JOKING.
© 2012 Universal Uclick

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.
YOUR INSURANCE WILL COVER YOUR APPENDECTOMY.
WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?
IT DOESN'T COVER THE ANESTHETIC.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Day segments (Abbr.)
4 "Hail, Caesar!"
7 Shaft of light
8 Trap
10 "Who ya — call?"
11 Lube job
13 "The Seven Year Itch" star
16 Weep
17 Hermit
18 Charged bit
19 Moist in the morn
20 Scored 100 on
21 Spin
23 Arousing suspicion
25 Actress Cannon
26 "A — home is ..."
27 Spring mo.
28 Metric measures
30 "Help!"
33 Classic comedy starring 13-Across
36 Tried hard
37 Just one of the bunch?
38 Stay in one place, like a helicopter
39 Drones
40 Prepared
41 Golf gizmo

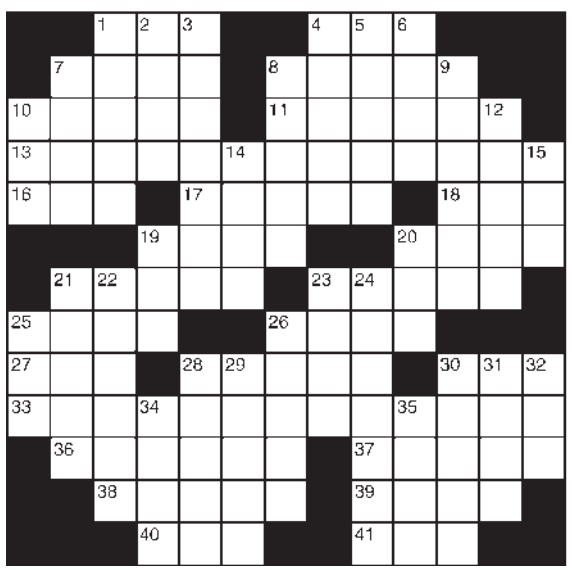
DOWN

1 Any of eight English kings
2 Hindu princess
3 Not as big
4 Japanese cartoon style
5 "Discretion is the better part of —"
6 Ms. Brockovich
7 Piglets' papa
8 Cher's longtime partner
9 Improve
10 Yukon SUV manufacturer
12 Viscous
14 Cry of distress
15 Conclusion
19 Noise
20 Donkey
21 Mistakes in print
22 Ardor
23 Partner of fortune
24 Perception
25 "— Kapital"
26 Creator
28 Michael Jackson prop
29 Construction site fastener
30 Disgrace
31 "My bad"
32 Canonized Mlle.
34 Cupid's alias
35 Verifiable

Solution time: 21 mins.

R	A	N	D	■	A	B	A	■	E	L	A	N		
O	R	E	O	■	S	O	D	■	M	E	M	O		
T	E	A	R	■	S	N	O	W	C	A	P	S		
C	A	P	S	T	A	N	■	H	F	S	S	F		
■	■	■	A	N	Y	■	W	E	E	■	■	■		
S	T	I	L	T	■	T	A	N	D	O	O	R		
A	I	D	■	■	T	U	X	■	■	A	W	E		
D	O	O	R	M	A	T	■	F	A	R	E	D		
■	■	■	A	U	G	■	L	I	D	■	■	■		
F	R	A	N	C	■	M	A	T	L	O	C	K		
L	O	C	K	H	E	E	D	■	I	S	L	E		
A	B	E	L	■	R	O	E	■	B	L	O	G		
W	E	R	E	■	A	N	N	■	S	O	T	S		

Yesterday's answer 4-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Downey Jr., 47; David Cross, 48; Christine Lahti, 62; Craig T. Nelson, 68.

Happy Birthday: Do whatever it takes to satisfy your needs personally and professionally. Make changes that will allow you to use the skills you enjoy the most. Quality of life is what you should be striving for, along with less stress, more enjoyment and a balanced financial future. Budget wisely, cut your overhead and enjoy peace of mind. Your numbers are 2, 6, 15, 23, 27, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Finish what you start. Your work will reflect your interest in what you are doing and determine your success. An unusual opportunity based on a past experience or connection will develop if you reconnect with an associate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Being receptive to what others do and say will be educational and help you gather the knowledge required to get ahead. Don't feel down because someone you thought you could trust disappoints you. Size up your situation and keep moving. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be open about how you feel and what you are up to or you may be accused of something you didn't do. Jealousy and poor judgment can turn out to be financially and emotionally costly. Do what's right and what's best for you. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be daunted by the changes going on around you. Stick close to home and to the people you love most. A partner will help you achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes. Focus on your emotional attitude and obtaining greater personal security. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put your energy where it will bring you the highest returns. Apply for a better position or masterfully execute a job you've been given, and you will be rewarded. Love is in the stars, and a romantic encounter will lead to a lifestyle change. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll discover information that will help you make a decision that can change your life. An opportunity to utilize all your attributes in a unique way will pay off. Network, present and promote your talents. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put more into your surroundings and you will increase your assets and secure your financial position. Changes at home that enable you to earn extra cash should be implemented. Relationships are highlighted, but caution must be taken with regard to intimacy. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Hard work will bring stellar results. Do whatever it takes to make your surroundings conducive to creativity and imagination. Think outside the box and share your ideas with people you find inspiring. Develop a close bond with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may be forced to make unwanted changes. Accepting the inevitable will allow you greater control and freedom to choose what's best for you. Be prepared to take advantage of a last-minute change of plans. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Approach whatever is being asked of you with caution. Not everyone will have your best interests at heart. Ulterior motives are likely to cost you financially or emotionally if you aren't prepared to say no or counter what's being offered. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Promote change, especially if it will help you financially. Discipline and hard work, along with a strict budget and sound strategy, will help you achieve your goals. A secret meeting will lead to an interesting new partnership. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Open your eyes and look at the fine print of any deal you are considering. Whether it's personal or professional, you mustn't get involved with someone for the wrong reason. Someone from your past can help you now. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a perfectionist. You are focused, strong-minded and opportunistic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

							5
			9	1			3	2
		9			5		6	
	4	6	3			5		
9				5		2		
	7	3	8			6		4
	3		2			8		6
		5			4	3		7
						4	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	5	3	6	4	9	1	7
6	4	7	9	1	2	5	8	3
9	1	3	5	7	8	6	2	4
7	8	2	1	3	9	4	6	5
5	3	6	4	2	7	1	9	8
1	9	4	6	8	5	3	7	2
2	5	9	7	4	1	8	3	6
3	7	1	8	5	6	2	4	9
4	6	8	2	9	3	7	5	1

Difficulty level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

3-D TV **Solution: 7 letters**

D	G	C	E	H	H	V	I	E	W	E	R	S	T	V
E	I	N	O	G	D	C	Z	S	A	M	E	H	I	R
F	S	M	I	N	R	I	O	P	I	T	E	S	D	E
I	E	H	E	M	S	A	S	S	U	A	U	I	E	V
N	A	S	U	N	M	O	L	P	T	A	S	(L)	P	I
I	R	S	H	T	S	A	L	E	L	C	B	(I)	T	E
T	E	F	T	O	T	I	R	E	F	A	C	(V)	H	C
I	M	L	U	R	W	E	O	G	C	F	Y	(E)	T	E
O	A	R	O	S	E	I	R	N	O	T	E	V	N	R
N	C	P	E	R	I	A	N	E	A	R	A	C	E	O
E	S	G	O	M	T	N	M	G	Y	L	P	P	T	E
E	U	L	A	H	A	N	G	I	U	A	R	R	N	D
R	O	G	R	X	E	G	O	E	N	A	L	E	O	I
C	E	E	T	H	I	R	D	C	H	G	C	P	C	V
S	E	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	T	S	U	J	D	A

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Adjust, Cable, Camera, CGAxis, Color, Console, Content, Control, Cost, Definition, Depth, Dimensional, Disc, Display, Effect, Fusing, Game, Glasses, High, Home, Images, Large, Live, Player, Programming, Receiver, Same, Scene, Screen, Setup, Sharper, Showing, Shutter, Size, Source, Sport, Streaming, Theater, Third, Three, Value, Video, Viewers, Visual

Yesterday's Answer: Commercial

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

EMPLOYMENT

Pacific Island Cleaning: 1-General Maintenance with 5 yrs. exp. $5.05/hr. Email: pica2006@yahoo.com.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month. Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

POI Aviation is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

Bookkeeper
Associate's Degree in Business or Accounting. At least 2 years of work related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and various logistics software and adept in the use of of SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controling) System. Can work well even with less supervision.

Applications can be obtained at the POI Aviation Office at the Continental Cargo Building at the airport. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 9, 2012. Back ground checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

WHATZIT Solution: All at once

www.saipantribune.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Ilmwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
DEPUTY CLERK TWO
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court, CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judicial Branch is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of **Deputy Clerk Two, Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court** on the island of Saipan.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and direct supervision of the Clerk of Court. The employee in this class performs work with wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgment and action in accordance with established policies, practices and court procedure. The following are required duties:

- Receive, review and record documents filed for hearing;
- Review documents presented by litigants for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court rules and decisions for approval and signature by judges;
- Track cases taken under advisement, ensure updates of same and provide periodic reports to the Clerk of Court and effected judges;
- Set the court calendar and adjust the same to maximize courtroom time and meet unusual situations;
- Prepare bench warrants, subpoenas, summonses and other related documents for issuance;
- Assess fines, receive and account for monies, issues receipts, prepare deposit slips, and make disbursements when ordered or directed;
- Interpret and disseminate information, law, policies, and procedures governing the hearing of cases;
- Maintain the list of court-appointed attorneys and ensure their rotation for indigent criminals, juveniles and 8 CMC #1719 cases;
- Update and maintain case dockets, judgment books and case files;
- Assist with the certification of records in cases appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court;
- Assist the Clerk of Court with the handling of dockets assigned to Judges Pro Tem;
- Serve as a courtroom clerk for the judges, which includes but is not limited to the following: ensuring courtroom readiness for proceedings, attending court sessions, administering oaths to witnesses, operating electronic recording equipment, listing all relevant portions of proceedings on a log, receiving, marking and assuming responsibility of all introduced evidence, and performing translation during proceedings;
- Assist with the training and supervision of assigned deputy clerks and section staff; the training includes but is not limited to courtroom procedures, custodianship of records, certification of records, administering of oaths, administering jury panels, and other clerkship duties for all trial court proceeding,
- Assist the Clerk of Court with Jury Trial Coordination. Compile, track, and update applicable lists of the Commonwealth citizens eligible for jury service, and
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a BS degree in business administration, public administration or related field, plus, four (4) years of experience in legal, law enforcement, court, administrative or related work. Strong preference exists for those with work experience in the legal field. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license, computer skills, and current police and traffic clearances.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: These are ungraded positions appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be between $25,000 and $31,757.68, commensurate with experience.

INTERESTED PERSONS should submit their resume and complete application in person to the Honorable Robert C. Naraja Presiding Judge of the Superior Court at the Guma' Hustisia/Ilmwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan or by mail to PO Box 502165, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. For additional information about this position, call (670)236-9800. Resume and application must be received by April 11, 2012. This job vacancy announcement, this position description and application can be viewed at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Omekateltelor Meliong Hossain
P.O. Box 1863 10002 PMB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 670-287-8412

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of:	]	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0141**
Omekateltelor Meliong Hossain Also known as Telor Meliong Petitioner	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice if hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 3, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 28th day of March, 2012.

Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Vacancy Announcement

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Board of Directors for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council wishes to announce an impending vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Northern Marianas Humanities Council office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, **April 30, 2012**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

Clippers rout Mavs, clinch sixth straight victory

DALLAS (AP)—Randy Foye had 28 points with a career-high eight 3-pointers and the Los Angeles Clippers won their sixth consecutive game, 94-75 over the Dallas Mavericks on Monday night for their longest winning streak in two decades.

Blake Griffin had 15 points and 16 rebounds for the Clippers, who last won six in a row in March 1992. Griffin had scored 20 points in each of the previous six games.

After Brandon Wright's tip-in capped an 8-0 run that pulled the Mavericks to within 76-62 with about 7 1/2 minutes left, Foye responded with a 3-pointer. Jason Terry then made another basket for Dallas, only to have Foy hit another 3—his eighth to match the franchise record.

Foye was 10 of 19 from the floor, including 8 of 15 from 3-point range. Quentin Richardson also made 8 3-pointers while scoring 36 points for the Clippers at Boston on Feb. 4, 2004.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 19 points.

Los Angeles entered the game fourth in the Western Conference, just ahead of the defending NBA champions.

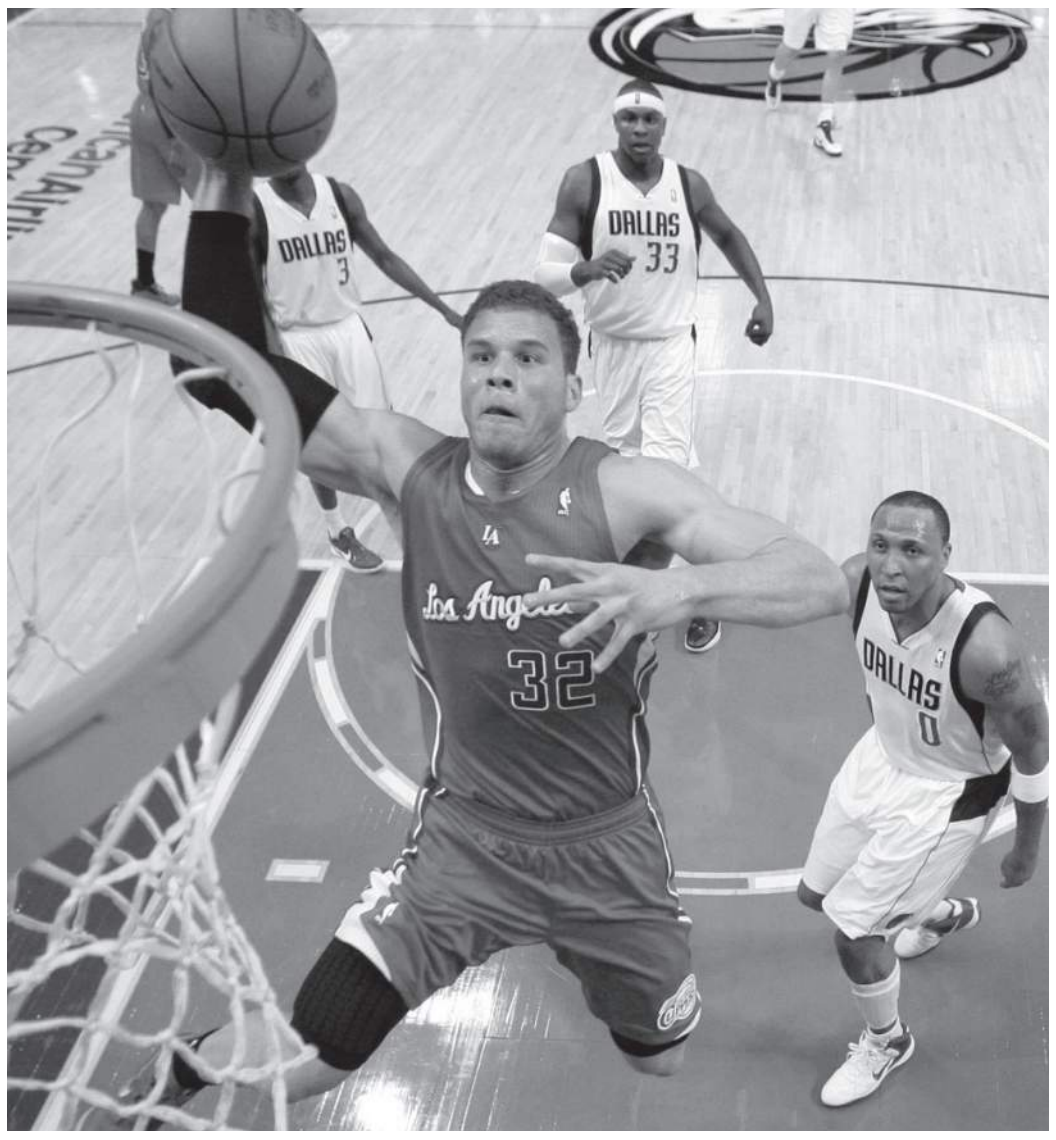
Had the playoffs been starting, it would have been a first-round game—in Los Angeles. Good thing for the Mavericks there are still more than three weeks left in the regular season.

For the Clippers, they took two of three in the season series against Dallas.

"A win like this shows that we're growing," Foye said. "It means a lot to play this well and beat the champs."

The loss dropped the Mavs to sixth place in the West. They are now a half-game behind Memphis, who they play twice in their next three games, including Wednesday night at home.

Dallas was without veteran guard Jason Kidd (strained right groin) and forward Lamar Odom (stomach illness). Kidd isn't expected to play this week, meaning he could miss his third four-game stretch this season.



AP

Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin (32) goes in for a dunk as Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Marion (0) watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, April 2, 2012, in Dallas.

As usual, Griffin had some highlight-reel dunks. He punctuated his night with a high-flying gem in the closing minutes. On one of Foye's missed 3s, Griffin came charging into the lane and cut in front of Nowitzki for a one-handed putback slam.

Griffin's first dunk came 5 minutes into the game, when Butler had a steal and pass to Griffin for a breakaway jam. Griffin made the shot even as Delonte West, filling in as the starter for Kidd, reached over and slapped down on his head.

The Clippers were already up 25-15 in the first quarter after a 3-pointer by Foye.

"We just couldn't get the ball to fall for us and Foye was hitting dagger after dagger," West said. "All those 3's, it takes a lot out of you.'"

Young's only points before a late 3-pointer had been seven in a row in a 75-second span midway through the second quarter for a 35-23 Clippers lead.

Dallas had only 33 points at halftime, its second-lowest scoring first half of the season, and things didn't get any better after that.

Vince Carter drove for what he thought was a layup early in the second half, but was called for charging. While Carter ran down the court in disbelief, replays showed that Griffin appeared to have his feet set when he took the contact.

Butler then hit a 3-pointer over Carter, and Foye drove for a short high bank shot to push the lead to 52-35.

"It's a good game because we need wins and it helps us in the West standings," Griffin said. "At the same time, just because we won like this doesn't mean that if we had to come back it would be a rout. They're a tough team, they're a veteran team, they're missing some guys, so we've just got to keep on working and keep on plugging."

Rockets 99, Bulls 93

In Chicago, Goran Dragic scored 21 points, and Luis Scola added 18 points and 12 rebounds as Houston handed league-leading Chicago back-to-back losses for the first time this season.

The Bulls had gone a franchise-record 86 regular-season games without dropping two in a row, second only to Utah's 95-game run in the late 1990s. But after getting mauled by Oklahoma City, they fell again for the second time in as many days.

The Rockets trailed by as much as 15 in the first half and were down 13 in the third, but a 14-1 run tied it at 62 late in the third and a 17-2 burst gave the Rockets an 84-72 lead.

Luol Deng scored 24 points, and Carlos Boozer had 16 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago.

Grizzlies 94, Thunder 88

In Oklahoma City, O.J. Mayo scored 22 points, including a key 3-pointer with 17 seconds left, and Memphis snapped Oklahoma City's six-game win streak.

Tony Allen added 15 points and Marc Gasol scored 13 for the Grizzlies, who were without starting point guard Mike Conley for a second straight game because of a sore right ankle.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 21 points and Russell Westbrook scored 19, with 12 coming as Oklahoma City tried to rally in the fourth quarter.

The Grizzlies won for the fourth time in five games. Memphis is in the midst of playing nine out of 11 games on the road and Monday's win opened a back-to-back-to-back stretch.

Bucks 112, Wizards 98

In Washington, Brandon Jennings scored 19 points to help Milwaukee pull within two games of the final playoff spot in the East with a win over Washington.

Monta Ellis and Mike Dunleavy scored 17 points apiece, Ersan Ilyasova had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Jennings added seven assists and six rebounds as the Bucks try to take advantage of a soft spot in the schedule in its pursuit of the eighth-place New York Knicks.

Milwaukee now returns home for a five-game homestand that starts with Cleveland, Charlotte and Portland—all teams with losing records.

Jordan Crawford scored 23 points to lead the Wizards.

Jazz 102, Blazers 97

In Portland, Paul Millsap had 31 points, including a go-ahead dunk with 1:11 left, and pulled down 11 rebounds to help Utah beat Portland and snap a three-game losing streak.

The Jazz held a 94-90 lead with 5 minutes to go, but LaMarcus Aldridge hit two straight jumpers to close the gap for the Blazers. Wesley Matthews made a 3-pointer for a 97-94 Blazers lead, but Al Jefferson hit a short jumper before Millsap's dunk gave Utah back the lead.

Jamaal Tinsley's steal on a Portland inbound pass led to another dunk for Millsap to make it 100-97 and the Blazers couldn't catch up.

Matthews led the Blazers with 33 points and Aldridge added 27.

Kings 116, Timberwolves 108

In Sacramento, Tyreke Evans had 24 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to lead Sacramento over slumping Minnesota.

The Kings, who came in having lost five of six, opened the fourth quarter with an 11-0 run and never trailed the rest of the way.

Sacramento made its free throws in the closing minute to secure the victory and move to 14-12 at home this season.

Kevin Love had 23 points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who lost their third straight and fourth in five games.

Miller leads Hall of Fame class of 2012

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Reggie Miller rode his sister's coattails all the way to the Hall of Fame.

The five-time All-Star joined longtime NBA coach Don Nelson and college standout Ralph Sampson on Monday as part of a 12-member class that will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September. Miller's sister, Cheryl, was enshrined in 1995.

Miller was at home when he received the call a couple days ago that he had gained entrance to the exclusive club. He quickly called his sister, one of the pioneers of the women's game.

"I can still hear her screaming in my ear," Miller said with a smile.

Miller often recalls the story about how his sister would beat him in games of one-on-one growing up. It wasn't until he'd grown to 6-foot-7 and could block Cheryl's shot that they finally quit playing those driveway pick-up games.

"She was a role model. She is a role model. She set the bar high for the family," Miller said, "and I'm just glad I'm on her coat-tails, dragging me along to the Hall of Fame."

Miller certainly earned the trip in his own right.

After a standout career at UCLA, he became one of the best perimeter shooters in the history of the game. He was part of the 1996 gold medal-winning Olympic team and played more games with one franchise than any player except John Stockton and Karl Malone.

He also caused untold fits for the New York Knicks, for years the biggest rival of his Pacers.

The night at Madison Square Garden that Miller scored an improbable eight points in 8.9 seconds, almost single-handedly winning Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals, is chronicled in the Peabody Award-winning documentary, "Winning Time: Reggie Miller vs. the New York Knicks."

"To be a part of this exclusive club is pretty special," Miller said.

The club in Springfield, Mass., now includes two-time Olympic gold medalist Katrina McClain, four-time NBA champion Jamaal Wilkes, longtime college referee Hank Nichols and the All-American Red Heads—the female version of the Harlem Globetrotters.

The newcomers were joined by five members of the class who already had been announced: Nike co-founder Phil Knight, ABA star Mel Daniels, seven-time NBA All-Star Chet Walker, Olympian Don Barksdale and Lydija Alexeeva, who led the Soviet Union to two Olympic gold medals.

The class will be inducted during a ceremony scheduled for Sept. 7.

"I was sitting on my back porch, smoking a cigar, when I got the call," said Nelson, a five-time NBA champion as a player and the winningest coach in league history.

"It was a great moment for me. I'm the luckiest man in the world," Nelson said. "I've been involved with the game of basketball for over 60 years, and I've never had a bad day, even when we lost games. They've all been great days."

The 7-foot-4 Sampson was one of the most dominant college players in history, a three-time national player of the year who led Virginia to the Final Four. He was the first overall pick in the NBA draft and a four-time All-Star before injuries finally slowed his career.

McClain was dealing with her kids at home when she learned she had been inducted in the Hall of Fame. The two-time All-American at Georgia helped the United States win Olympic gold in 1988 and 1996, and the bronze medal in 1992, blazing a trail for future WNBA stars.

The son of a Baptist minister, Wilkes was a two-time NCAA champion with UCLA and a three-time NBA All-Star. His jumper was so smooth that announcer Chick Hearn called it a "20-foot layup."

Nichols refereed 10 Final Fours and six national championship games before coordinating officials for the NCAA, while the All-American Red Heads entertained millions of fans over the course of six decades, breaking untold social barriers along the way.

"It's a very special time for people who have been involved in the game for a long time to be in the presence of those who have already been in inducted into the Hall of Fame," Hall of Fame chairman Jerry Colangelo said.

Louisville coach Rick Pitino, whose team was ousted by Kentucky in the Final Four on Saturday night, was among the finalists who were passed over by the committee.

Also missing out were four-time All-Star Maurice Cheeks, former Celtics and Rockets coach Bill Fitch, four-time All-Star Bernard King and longtime college and NBA coach Dick Motta.

NFL commish OK with Parcells as Saints coach

NEW YORK (AP)— NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says he won't stand in the way if the New Orleans Saints ask Bill Parcells to take over as interim coach for suspended Sean Payton.

"That's their decision. They need to make those decisions and we'll move forward," Goodell said Monday at the opening of an NFL pop-up store featuring new team apparel. "Bill's a great coach, and I'm sure (he) will add a lot of personality and intrigue. And he's as competitive as they get so I'm sure he'll do a good job."

Before the Saints pick someone to run the team this year, though, Goodell still has to rule on Payton's appeal of his season-long suspension, along with the appeals of shorter suspensions to assistant coach Joe Vitt and general manager Mickey Loomis and penalties handed down to the team.

Goodell expects to hear the appeals this week, and hopes to making a ruling shortly thereafter.

"Part of it depends exactly when the appeal is going to be, and second of all what information comes up in the appeal," said Goodell, who has met with Payton twice before the appeal was filed.

Meanwhile, league officials were meeting with NFL Players' Association representatives Monday about penalties involving players who took part in the bounty program.

The union has asked the NFL to provide it with all the information from the league's investigation that revealed 22 to 27 defensive players were part of the Saints' pay-for-pain bounty pool. The pool awarded thousands of dollars in cash bonuses from 2009-11 for vicious hits that knocked targeted opponents out of games.

One example, according to the league: Linebacker Jonathan Vilma offered $10,000 to any New Orleans player who sidelined Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre during the 2010 NFC championship game.

"Our team will meet with the NFL today, ask hard questions and will expect to see all documents and direct evidence of a pay-to-injure scheme," DeMaurice Smith, executive director of the NFL Players Association, told the website Pro Player Insiders on Monday. "That is what a fair process dictates. I will get a full briefing by our team and after that the next step will be to consult with players about what was learned. Only then will we confer with the NFL. "

Goodell said the league has given the NFLPA two confidential reports on the investigation.

"I think we all need to move forward," he said. "We've been open about what we've been able to find. We released it publicly."

The commissioner said he's hopeful the NFLPA will have a recommendation soon after meeting with league officials.

The results of the appeal could well affect whether Parcells comes out of retirement to take over as interim coach while his former offensive assistant and protege is suspended.

Parcells has said he would consider coaching the Saints if asked. Payton and Loomis played golf with the former NFL coach last week to talk to him about the team's predicament.

Parcells, who turns 71 in August, led the New York Giants to two Super Bowl titles, and also coached the New England Patriots, New York Jets and Dallas Cowboys.

There has been criticism of Goodell for allowing Payton to participate in picking his successor, but the commissioner says the decision rests with Saints owner Tom Benson.

"These are management decisions that Tom Benson will have to sign off on," Goodell said. "He will get recommendations, I'm sure from Sean and Mickey and others, and make his determination. If it ends up being Parcells, then they've gone through the full process."

On Sunday, the NFLPA told players involved in the bounty case that there's a chance they could face criminal charges and it hired outside counsel to represent them if needed.

Asked about possible criminal charges, Goodell said, "Those aren't my decisions."

"To me, we're going to do what's right," he said. "We're going to make sure our rules are enforced. And when they're violated we'll take the appropriate discipline."

On March 21, Goodell suspended Payton for all of the upcoming season, Loomis for eight games, Vitt for six games, and former defensive coordinator Gregg Williams indefinitely, a penalty that will last at least one season. Goodell also fined the Saints $500,000 and took away second-round draft picks in 2012 and 2013.

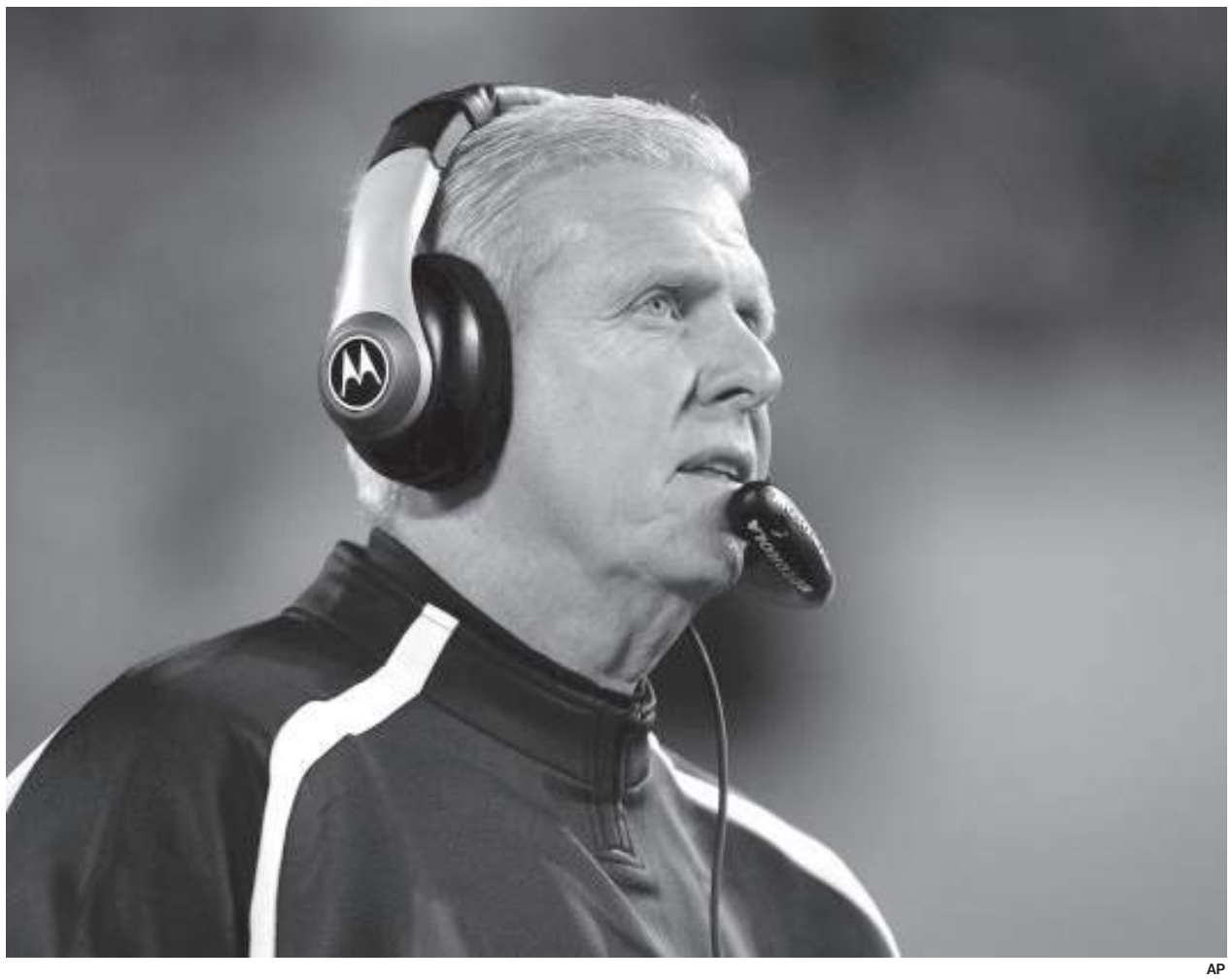
Williams, who left the Saints after last season to join the St. Louis Rams, ran the bounty program.

It's still unclear whether the appeals will change anything, but Goodell said Monday he's open to new evidence. He noted, though, that the investigation has lasted years, in large part because the Saints didn't come clean when first asked about the bounties.

"We've met with various personnel in the Saints, and for three years they denied that this was going on," Goodell said. "It's clear it was going on, and that's one of the reasons the punishment was harsh. ... They denied it repeatedly. And eventually we were able to get a credible source that came up late last year that gave us information that indicated clearly that it was going on."

Even then, Goodell said, the Saints still denied it.

"We want to hear if there's information we're not aware of," he said. "We'll take that into consideration and we'll deal with it from there."



AP

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says he won't stand in the way if the New Orleans Saints ask Bill Parcells, seen here in a file photo, to take over as interim coach for suspended Sean Payton.

Cain agrees to $127.5M, 6-year deal with Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—When Matt Cain pondered his future, staying put in San Francisco where his career took off became the top option.

He emerged as an All-Star and frontline starter with the Giants, and helped lead them to an improbable championship two years ago.

Now, Cain has that hefty new contract he so hoped for before opening day— awarded for what he has done and what San Francisco's brass is confident he will continue to do in a star-studded rotation.

Cain and the Giants agreed Monday to a $127.5 million, six-year contract, the largest deal for a right-handed pitcher in baseball history.

"This is a decision that was made pretty simple for us. It was a process and it was a negotiation. It was good for my family and I to go through all of that," Cain said, his wife Chelsea in the back of the room for his news conference. "To be able to know this is probably going to be our lifetime as a Giant, that's pretty cool for us."

The agreement adds $112.5 million over five years to the $15 million salary for 2012 that remained on the All-Star's previous deal. Cain gets a $5 million signing bonus as part of the new contract and $20 million annually from 2013-17. The deal includes a $21 million option for 2018 with a $7.5 million buyout that, if exercised, would raise the total to $141 million over seven seasons.

Cain's option would become guaranteed if he pitches 200 innings in 2017 or 400 innings combined in 2016-17 and isn't on the disabled list at the end of the 2017 season for a right elbow or right shoulder injury. If it doesn't become guaranteed, it would be a team option.

One of general manager Brian Sabean's top priorities this offseason had been to keep his talented pitching staff intact—and president and CEO Larry Baer has been onboard all along. Two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum agreed to a $40.5 million, two-year contract in late January.

"Ensuring that Matt remained a Giant beyond this season was a top priority for the organization. Matt is an integral part of the team whose performance on the mound will be one of the keys to our success for years to come," Sabean said.

Among pitchers, only the Yankees' CC Sabathia and the Mets' Johan Santana, both left-handers, agreed to larger contracts. Sabathia got a $161 million deal from 2009-2015 that had an additional year and $30 million in guaranteed money added last fall. Santana agreed to a $137.5 million contract from 2008-13.

The previous record contract for a right-handed pitcher was Kevin Brown's $105 million, seven-year deal with the Dodgers after the 1998 season.

be in this situation. We're trying to take that all in and embrace it," Cain said. "It's great to be mentioned with any of the names in that category. It's nice to be spoken in the same sentence with Santana and Sabathia."

The 27-year-old Cain went 12-11 last season with a 2.88 ERA, reaching 200 innings for the fifth straight season. The durable pitcher also didn't allow an earned run during the entire 2010 postseason, when the Giants pulled off an improbable World Series championship.

"This kid literally has gotten better each year and has proven that under very difficult circumstances," Sabean said.

Cain, represented by CAA Sports, never named his price tag or the number of years he sought, other than to say during spring training he wanted "fair value." Several other top pitchers around the majors have signed similar contracts for five years—Phillies ace Cliff Lee ($120 million), the Angels' C.J. Wilson ($77.5 million) and Jered Weaver of the Angels ($85 million).

"Both sides always felt they were pushing in the right direction," Cain said.

Cain can earn an additional $500,000 for winning the Cy Young award, $250,000 for second place, $100,000 for third, $75,000 for fourth and $50,000 for fifth. He would receive $1 million for a second or subsequent Cy Young. He also would get $250,000 for MVP, $150,000 if second, $100,000 for third, $75,000 for fourth and $50,000 for fifth.

Cain gets $200,000 if named World Series MVP and $150,000 if chosen NL championship series MVP, plus $100,000 for being selected an All-Star. He also could make $50,000 for a Gold Glove or Silver Slugger award.

The Giants said their talks with Cain's representatives were professional and constant in hopes of coming to an agreement before the Giants open the season Friday at Arizona. Sabean said the framework was in place, but finalizing details on the years and dollar figures happened over the final 72 hours.

"They're totally committed and they're all in on getting back to the World Series," manager Bruce Bochy said of the front office. "It's not easy to keep a pitching staff intact. That's a lot of money. We want to win. That's the message that is being sent and we're doing all we can to get back and hopefully have a year like we had a couple years ago.

"That's our strength. In this division it's all about pitching in these ballparks. That's how we're going to win."

One of the big beneficiaries of Cain's deal could be Philadelphia's Cole Hamels, currently the top pitcher eligible for free agency after this season. Brewers right-hander Zack Greinke also could become a free agent. Cain's contract also might give Lincecum momentum when potential talks begin about a long-term contract beyond his latest deal.

In addition, San Francisco catcher Buster Posey could do well down the road. He also is represented by CAA. Posey, the 2010 NL Rookie of the Year who is coming back from an injury-shortened season last year, is thrilled to see Cain stay.

MISO kicks off soccer, fast-pitch softball leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization spring season started this week with last Monday's boys soccer game between the Marianas High School's Dolphins and the Ayuyus of Kagman High School at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

The season continues at the Hopwood pitch today at 3:45pm with KHS taking on the two-time champions Manta Rays of Saipan Southern High School. Results of both matches will be released later this week. There will be no games this Friday, however starting next week two games will be played at Hopwood on Mondays and Tuesday starting at 3:45pm and 5:10pm, while Friday's matches will be played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

For the MISO girls fast-pitch softball, the season kicks off at 4pm tomorrow at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield with the Lady Manta Rays facing the defending champions KHS Lady Ayuyus.

The Mount Carmel School Lady Knights will also be suiting up in the season, which is formatted as a double-round robin.

Outrigger canoe set for April 14

MISO shoots for an April 14 opening of its outrigger canoe season. Races start at 9am at the Kilili Beach Park across the Oleai Sports Complex. Kagman, Mt. Carmel, MHS, and Southern are all expected to enter teams this season. The Rays swept the field last year.

Opening day events include a 500-meter sprint and a 1000-meter race and for the first time, a junior division will be offered this year both in the girls and boys fields.

KENTUCKY

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Davis' fellow lottery prospect, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, was another headliner, creating space for himself to score all 11 of his points in the first half.

Davis, meanwhile, might have had the most dominating six-point night in the history of college basketball, earning the nod as the most outstanding player. He finished with 16 rebounds, six blocks, five assists and three steals - and made his only field goal with 5:13 left in the game. It was a surefire illustration of how the 6-foot-10 freshman can exert his will on a game even on a rare night when the shot isn't falling.

"Well, it's not me, it's these guys behind me," Davis said after his 1-for-10 performance. "They led us this whole tournament. This whole game I was struggling offensively, and I told my team, every time down, you all score the ball; I'm just gonna defend and rebound."

So much easier when you've got teammates like this. Davis is the likely first pick in the draft should he choose to come out, and Kidd-Gilchrist won't be far behind. Another first-round prospect, freshman Marquis Teague, had 14 points. And yet another, sophomore Terrence Jones, had nine points, seven rebounds and two of Kentucky's 11 blocked shots.

"We've got a lot of great players on this team,'" Teague said. "Other players stepped up and made plays. He had confidence in us to make plays and that's what we tried to do."

Kansas also has a lottery pick in AP All-American Thomas Robinson. But he was harassed all night by Davis and Jones and finished with 18 points and 17 rebounds on a 6-for-17 shooting night.

The Jayhawks won the "B" League this year, as Calipari avenged a final-game loss to Bill Self back in 2008 when Cal was coaching the Tigers. Not a bad season in Lawrence, though, considering where KU began.

Kansas lost four of its top five scorers off last year's roster. There were times early in the season when Self and his old buddy and mentor, Larry Brown, would stand around at practices and wonder if this was a team that could even make the tournament. It did. Won its eighth straight conference title, too.

None of this, however, was for the faint of heart. The Jayhawks trailed by double digits in three of their five tournament games leading to the final and played every game down to the wire. They fell behind by 18 late in the first half of this one and this time, there was no big comeback to be made; not against these guys.

"We came up short, but I don't think we lost. I think they just beat us," Self said.

Davis realized early this was no shoot-first night for him at the Superdome. Sporting his near-unibrow, which the UK Wildcat mascot also decided to paste on, he endured the worst shooting night of a short college career in which he makes 64 percent. No big deal. He set the tone early on defense, swatting Robinson's shot twice, grabbing rebounds, making pretty bounce passes for assists.

Early in the second half, he made a steal that also could have been an assist, knocking the ball out of Robinson's hands and directly to Jones, who dunked for a 46-30 lead.

Then, finally. With 5:13 left in the game, he spotted up for a 15-foot jumper from the baseline that swished for a 59-44 lead, putting a dagger in one of Kansas' many comebacks.

"He was terrific," Self said. "The basket he made was one of the biggest baskets of the game."

The crowd, a little more full of Kentucky fans than Kansas, went crazy. If this guy only stays one year and only makes one shot, they're fine with that.

It's the new normal at Kentucky, where Adolph Rupp set a standard, Rick Pitino lived up to it for a while, then Calipari—hardly the buttoned-down type—was hired to bring back the glory.

He goes for the best player, no matter what their long-term goals.

Normally, the prospect of losing all those players in one swoop would have people thinking about a tough rebuilding year.

But Cal has mastered the art of rebuilding on the fly.

He's the coach who brings in the John Walls, Brandon Knights and Derrick Roses (at Memphis) for cups of coffee, lets them sharpen up their resumes, then happily says goodbye when it becomes obvious there's nothing left for them to do in school.

Last year, the formula resulted in a trip to the Final Four that ended with a crushing loss to Connecticut in the semifinals.

This year, Davis and Kidd-Gilchrist came to Lexington with big-time bona-fides, and they didn't disappoint. Kentucky lost only twice all season - once on a buzzer-beater at Indiana, the second time last month in the SEC tournament title game to Vanderbilt.

The Vandy loss might have been, as Calipari put it, just what the doctor ordered for a team that could sometimes border on arrogance.

They rebounded nicely for the real tournament, and through it all, the coach refused to apologize for the way he recruits or how he runs his program. Just playing by the rules as they're set up, he says, even if he doesn't totally agree with them. Because he refuses to promise minutes or shots to any recruit and demands teamwork out of all of them, he says he comes by these players honestly.

DAVIS

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Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and Doron Lamb, along with Kansas' Thomas Robinson and Tyshawn Taylor.

Despite finishing with just six points, all but two on free throws, Davis flirted with a double-double. He tied Joakim Noah's individual record for blocks in the NCAA championship game with six, grabbed 16 rebounds, had five assists and three steals.

If this was the last game at Kentucky for the 19-year-old freshman, expected to be the No. 1 pick in this summer's NBA draft, it was a heck of a way to go out.

"Well, it's not me, it's these guys behind me. They led us this whole tournament," Davis said. "This whole game I was struggling offensively and I told my team every time down, `You all score the ball. I'm just going to defend and rebound.'"

As the final seconds ticked down, cheers of "M-V-P! M-V-P!" echoed throughout the arena. And as the buzzer sounded, Davis finally showed the personality that is sure to make him a megastar at the next level. Grabbing a national champions T-shirt and hat, Davis quickly put them on and strolled over to the Kentucky fans, pointing at the court as he did Saturday night.

No screams of "This is my stage!" on this night. But everybody, from the Kentucky fans to the Kansas players, already knew it.

Standing tall on the podium for the trophy presentation, Davis repeatedly turned to the Kentucky cheering section, waving his long arms and urging fans to show the Wildcats even more love.

Davis has loomed large all season, and not simply because he's 6-foot-10 with a wingspan of a Piper Cub. A guard until a growth spurt, he still has that sweet shot and sixth sense of a smaller player. And despite playing at a Chicago high school that didn't even have its own gym, Davis seems born for the big stage and bright lights.

It's Davis' game, though, that really has star quality.

He finished the season with 20 double-doubles, seven in his last 10 games. This was only the eighth time this season he failed to crack double figures.

And in the truest sign of a special talent, even when he's having an "off" night, as he was Monday, he still finds ways to dominate the game. Having already played Kansas earlier this season, he wasted no time reminding the Jayhawks of what they were in for, crowding Thomas Robinson on the Jayhawks' first few possessions and disrupting the All-American's shots. Kansas center Jeff Withey, a shot-blocking machine himself, looked like a high school kid beside Davis.

Kentucky coach John Calipari has raved about his team's unselfishness all season, usually pointing to Davis as the prime example. With his shots not falling, Davis buckled down on defense and let his teammates take care of the scoring.

WILDCATS

From Page 28

looked as if it might have dislocated his shoulder, and Marquis Teague and Doron Lamb hit clutch shots that kept the held back the Jayhawks' late rally.

Terrence Jones and Darius Miller also made their marks in just the type of team effort the Wildcats (38-2) had given all season.

The `Cats other NBA prospects handled things on the offensive end while Davis went 1 for 10 from the field. The AP player of the year remained his dominant self in every other phase of the game with 16 rebounds, six blocks and five assists.

Lamb, who finished with 22 points, said his only goal when he returned for a second year at Kentucky was to win a national championship.

The sophomore has been a steady force all year for the Wildcats and he was the only Kentucky player who shot well in last year's national semifinal loss in Houston. He brought his shot to the Superdome this weekend, too.

After Kansas (32-7) cut it to 10 midway through the second half, Lamb squared up and hit a pair of 3-pointers in a 23-second span to snap the `Cats back after they'd been 3 of 14 from the field with six turnovers to start the second half.

He finished shooting 7 of 12 from the field.

Then it was Teague's turn.

The point guard was considered the key to keeping the Wildcats playing together and followed in the shoes of John Calipari's prodigies such as John Wall, Brandon Knight, Derrick Rose and Tyreke Evans. He finished with 14 points, three assists and two turnovers, making his biggest impact late.

With Kansas closing, Teague buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 2:50 left that pushed the lead back to double digits, then hit two free throws inside a minute that helped seal the victory and finish Kentucky's eighth title run.

Kentucky set the tone early.

Kidd-Gilchrist, who had 11 points and six rebounds, careened hard into the court after being fouled by Elijah Johnson just over a minute into the game. He stayed down for a few tense moments, then got up, got to the line and made his first free throw even though his right shoulder was clearly bothering him.

Jones, who had nine points and seven rebounds, also had an injury scare when he crumpled to the court in the first half, appearing to badly roll his right ankle. He got up with a limp but stared at the bench with a look that said there was no way he was coming out of this game.

He was still hobbling at the half, but never asked out.

The Wildcats never had a more serious injury this season than when he missed two games in December with a dislocated left pinky finger.

Miller, the senior leader, set a school record with his 152nd appearance early in the first half, and then quietly provided five points and six rebounds in 25 productive minutes.

CRANK

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macho normally competes as a middleweight (181lbs) and was originally at the venue to support some teammates who have been training as middleweights .

International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation organized the weekend event.

After the competition, Camacho returned to Las Vegas, Nevada where he is currently training under Team Lloyd Irvin/Alliance MMA, which is being featured in Ultimate Fighter Live.

Camacho's teammate, current UFC Bantamweight champion (135lbs) Dominick "The Domin8er" Cruz (19-1), is one of the fighters featured this season on FX. Cruz opponent is Team Alpha Male's Urijah "The Calfornia Kid" Faber (26-2), of Davis County, California.

Other fighters Camacho is working with during the camp include fellow Alliance MMA comrades Brandon "The Truth" Vera (12-5-1NC) of Sand Diego and Mike "The Hulk" Easton (12-1) of Temple Hills, MD; England's Team Rough House-duo Dan "The Outlaw" Hardy (23-10-1NC) of Nottingham Midlands and Ross "The Real Deal" Pearson (13-5) of Sunderland-Time and Wear; Victory MMA's Jeremy "Lil Heathen" Stephens (20-7) of De Moines, Iowa; and Stockholm Shoot/Shooters Alexander "The Mauler" Gufstafson (13-1) of Stockholm County, Sweden. Camacho's sensei Master Lloyd Irvin is also helping out the show as a coach.

Camacho will be appearing in a C3 Fights event in Oklahoma as a lightweight (155lbs) in early June. His opponent has yet to be named.

"I am super stoked. I have not been in the cage for three years and I am very excited to get back in the cage. It's going to be a new The Crank in the cage," Camacho said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho added that his judo and wrestling have improved, his Thai-boxing and striking are evolving and that he is growing as a martial artist as a whole. He also shared that this first bout is just the start of a grind he has lined up and he plans to fight more often.

For more updates and information about Camacho, visit www.crankeffect.com.

Jones sits down 21 in Yankees rout of Fielders

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Southpaw pitcher Joshua Jones tallied 21 strikeouts to power the Northern Yankees to a 15-1 demolition of the IT&E Fielders during last Wednesday's game in the 2012 Saipan Major League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Jones gave up just two hits and a walk through nine innings and his 21 total was just one short of tying SML's record. He was gifted with an early 2-0 lead off the Fielders' jitters on the mound and the Yanks went on to pull ahead, 4-0, in the third inning off an error and a sacrifice fly by Chris Camacho. Jones tallied his seven punchout to end the bottom frame.

Fielders' pitcher Elton Santos settled down on the mound and kept his team within range through the middle innings, but they were able to muster only one run in the bottom of the sixth after Eldred Sanchez hit a triple and later scored off a passed ball.

Then the Yankees went ahead, 6-0, in the top half of the eighth. Robert Bansil reached on a base hit and came in on a wild pitch and Chris Meyers picked up the signal and squeezed home Camacho.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The Northern Yankees' Joshua Jones delivers a two-seam fastball against the IT&E Fielders during their SML game last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Jones stepped up in the clutch once again and struck out the side in the bottom frame, while his teammates scored eight more runs in the top of the ninth inning. Fielders' Ben Santos was called to the mound at the start of the ninth and got his first man, but then gave up two passes before the Yankees bashed six hits. Dave Camacho belted a two-RBI triple, Bansil hit an RBI double, Camacho made an RBI single, Gary Cruz grounded in a run, and Ben Jones busted a two-RBI double.

Camacho went 1-for-2 with two RBIs, two runs, and two bases on balls, while Ben Jones batted 2-for-4 with two RBIs, two runs, and a base on balls.

Ol'Aces 19, Masters 2

Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces began their 2012 campaign with a big win over the Masters last Monday night.

The Masters started off well and managed to work around leadoff man Franklin Muna for first blood in the match, but the Ol'Aces obliged with a run in the bottom of the first from speedster Jesus Iguel, who hammered a double before being driven in by Nokki Saralu.

The Masters' came up empty to start the second and the Ol'Aces pulled on a seven-run string in the bottom frame off five hits. Tyrone Omar bagged an RBI single, Juan Maratita Jr. ripped an RBI double, Ben Taisacan grounded in a run, and Mike Iguel delivered an RBI base smash. the Masters responded with just one run from a sacrifice fly by Smith Regis.

The Ol'Aces then trotted away, 12-2, as the Masters endured some ball handling issues out on field. Masters' Paul Camacho came in to relieve starting pitcher Ed Santos and close the third inning.

Ol'Aces' pitcher Juan Iguel was locked in cruise control, but handed the ball over to Maratita with one out in the fifth inning to face his old man, Juan Maratita Sr.

Maratita Sr. was issued a walk even though he stared at strike four, but his pride and joy had little trouble securing the close and ended the match five batters later. The O'l Aces added a run in the fifth and five in the sixth before clocking out early.

Maratita Jr. batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs, four runs, and a base on balls, while Jesus Iguel scored four times and Saralu came home three times.

Winning pitcher Juan Iguel gave up two earned runs off six hits and three walks with five strikeouts in five and one-third innings.

The season continues tonight with the IT&E Fielders taking on the defending champion St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (1-0) at 6:30pm.

Tenorio leads Saipan finishers in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Local triathlete Lewie Tenorio this time was the fastest non-pro from Saipan to complete last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

Tenorio finished the 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run in 3:48:53 (16th overall), leading eight other Saipan finishers in the weekend road race. He improved from a second place finish last year (behind 2011 top Saipan finisher Butch Sublemente) and surpassed his 2011 time (3:51:46). The veteran triathlete, who was the third fastest home bet in XTERRA Saipan and topped his division, went on to place second in the 40 to 44 age group behind Korea's Byunghoon Park (3:19:57). The 40-year-old Tenorio timed in at 41:15 in the swim leg in the waters off Pacific Islands, completed the bike leg from PIC to Bird Island Lookout/Suicide and Banzai cliffs and Micro Beach under two hours (1:52:15), and submitted 1:15:23 in the run leg from Micro Beach to Oleai Bar & Grill and back.

Rounding out the Top 7 in the 40 to 44 age group were five other off-island triathletes: Kwang Geun Song (4:43:41), Hiroaki Sasabuchi (4:49:44), Minoru Matsumoto (4:56:32), Takeshi Matsuoka (5:16:39), and Jin Kyung Park (6:00:41).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan's Lewie Tenorio heads to the bike-run transition area during last Saturday's 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

Tyce Mister was the second Saipan non-pro finisher and third among the host's male triathletes behind Sublemente (3:53:23), but first in the 45 to 49 age group after clocking in at 3:54:40. Mister, who had split times of 35:37 (swim), 2:02:13 (bike), and 1:16:50 (run), defeated Guam's Richard Leone (4:03:06), Japan's Nobuo Ito (4:24:47), Hiroaki Kuwahara (4:44:51), and Yasuyuki Nakamura (4:30:45), Australia's Allan Collinson (4:33:42), and Korea's Dosang Yoo (4:41:38) and Taihee Cho (4:49:36).

Other Saipan age group winners were Kaisei Toda, Angelo Villagomez, and John Douglas. Toda won the U25 age group after completing the race in 4:21:10, with split times of 29:12 (swim), 2:17:03 (bike), and 1:34:55 (run). Villagomez submitted split times of 50:34, 2:48:43, and 1:54:25 for a combined time of 5:33:42 and a victory in the 30 to 34 age group, while Douglas reigned supreme in the 50 to 54 category with his total time of 4:00:22. Douglas posted split times of 44:06, 2:03:23, and 1:12:53 to beat fellow Saipan bets Florence Antonio (4:14:02) and Manny Sitchon (4:59:51), and United Kingdom's Mike Adams (5:16:15).

Completing the age group winners in the men's division were 60 and over's Osamu Inosawa (4:24:24), 55 to 59's Saburo Arakawa (4:50:09), 35 to 39's Hyuksik Ha (3:45:28), and 25 to 29's Shinichi Kubo (3:25:49).

In the women's division, Japan's Yuko Sugimoto (5:06:34) and Australia's Julia Lendavi (4:58:58) won the 35 to 39 and 50 to 54 age groups, respectively, while Korea's Soonbok Kim ruled the 45 to 49 age group. Kim timed in at 4:41:48 to top Youngmi Chang (4:49:38), Reiko Okamoto (4:59:59), and Misoon Han (5:31:36).

All Schools qualifiers draw big turnout

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Elementary school students compete in the 100m qualifying run for the 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championship last Monday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The qualifying competitions for the 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championship started last Monday with over 150 students trooping the Oleai Sports Complex.

"We had a big turnout on the first day even though we only had four schools. On Tuesday (yesterday), we expect an even bigger turnout as there will be 11 schools joining the qualifiers," meet director Elias Rangamar said.

"The registration area was long as students started coming at 3pm. We're happy that the invited schools brought a lot of students despite the challenges with transportation and break," Rangamar added.

Day 1 of the series of qualifying events were for students from Saipan Community School, Dandan Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho, and William S. Reyes.

The trials started at 4pm with the 60m run for the boys U8, U10, and U12 age group. Also scheduled at the same time was the long jump for the girls U8, U10, and U12.

Next up were the 60m qualifying races for the girls U8, U10, and U12, and the long jump for the boys in the same age group.

There were also qualifying runs in the 100m for both girls and boys U8, U10, and U12 age group, while the last event of the day was the 4x100m relay for both girls and boys in the same age group.

Only the students making the Top 8 best records after the six-weeklong qualifiers will advance to the championship scheduled from May 17 to 19.

The qualifiers will be held from Monday to Wednesday with the first two days of the week reserved for elementary students and the third for high school and junior high athletes.

Other events set in the qualifiers are the 200m, 400m, 800m and 1,500m runs, 4x400m relay, javelin, softball throw, mixed medley relay, and shotput.

Last Tuesday, the qualifiers were for students from Whispering Palms, Oleai, Koblerville, San Antonio, Brilliant Star, Kagman, Saipan International School, Mt. Carmel, San Vicente, Tanapag, and Garapan, while tomorrow, it will be the turn of Marianas High School, Kagman, Saipan Southern, SIS, Whispering Palms, Chacha, Hopwood Junior High School, SCS, Marianas Baptist Academy, and Northern Marianas Academy bets.

'The Crank' makes semis of jiu-jitsu tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho advanced to the semifinals of the 2012 Pan American Jiu Jitsu Championships and managed to save third place in the competition held on March 30 and 31 at the UC Event Center in Irvine, California.

He made it to semifinals of the purple belt middle-heavyweight division with Gi (194lbs), which drew 50 competitors and still placed in the Top 3 despite deciding to register for the event on the same day the tournament took place and joining the heavier weight division. Ca-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Frank Camacho, right, takes on an opponent during last weekend's 2012 Pan American Jiu-Jitsu Championships held at the UC Center in Irvine, California.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kentucky tops Kansas for national title

By EDDIE PELLS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— No matter where Anthony Davis and his buddies go to make their millions, their ol' Kentucky home will long remember this championship season.

The Wildcats hit the jackpot with their lottery picks Monday night, ignoring Davis' bad shooting night and parlaying a roster full of NBA talent into a 67-59 victory over Kansas for the team's eighth national title - and its first since 1998.

The one-and-doners did it in a wire-to-wire victory - a little dicey at the end - to cap a season in which anything less than bringing a title back to the Bluegrass State would have been a downer. They led coach John Calipari to his first title in four trips to the Final Four with three different schools.

"This is not about me. This is about these 13 players," Calipari said. "This is about the Big Blue Nation."

Doron Lamb, a sophomore with first-round-draft-pick possibilities, led the Wildcats (38-2) with 22 points, including back-to-back 3-pointers that put them up by 16 with 10 minutes left.

The Jayhawks (32-7), kings of the comeback all season, fought to the finish and trimmed that deficit to five with 1:37 left. But Kentucky made five free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

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▶ Kentucky guard Doron Lamb,left, forward Terrence Jones (3) and guard Marquis Teague celebrate after the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball championship game Monday, April 2, 2012, in New Orleans. Kentucky, won 67-59. AP

Davis selected MOP at Final Four

By NANCY ARMOUR
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Kentucky's Anthony Davis has been selected the Most Outstanding Player at the Final Four after dominating defensively in Monday night's NCAA championship game.

The freshman forward had a rough night on offense, scoring six points on 1-of-10 shooting. He made up for it with defense, tying a championship game record with six blocked shots and altering several others in Kentucky's 67-59 win over Kansas.

Davis, who set an NCAA freshman record with 186 blocked shots, helped Kentucky hold the Jayhawks to 35 percent shooting. He also had 16 rebounds, five assists and three steals in leading Kentucky to its eighth national title and first since 1998.

He was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates

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◀ Kentucky's Anthony Davis goes up for a shot against Louisville defenders during the second half of their Final Four game Saturday in New Orleans. AP

Wildcats' depth overwhelms Jayhawks

By COLIN FLY
AP SPORTS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— There's more to Kentucky than Anthony Davis—and that's what made the Wildcats almost impossible to beat.

Davis' supporting cast made the most of their turns in the spotlight Monday night, picking up the scoring slack for their freshman star and overwhelming Kansas for a 67-59 victory in the NCAA title game that gave the Wildcats their eighth national title.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist set the tone a minute in, staying in the game after a hard foul that

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▲ Kansas forward Thomas Robinson (0), guard Tyshawn Taylor (10) and forward Kevin Young, left, huddle after the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball championship game Monday, April 2, 2012, in New Orleans. Kentucky won, 67-59. AP